

Missy Hyatt vs. Dark Journey: THE SAVAGE WAR OF THE
BATTLING BEAUTIES!

SPORTS REVIEW

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Wrestling

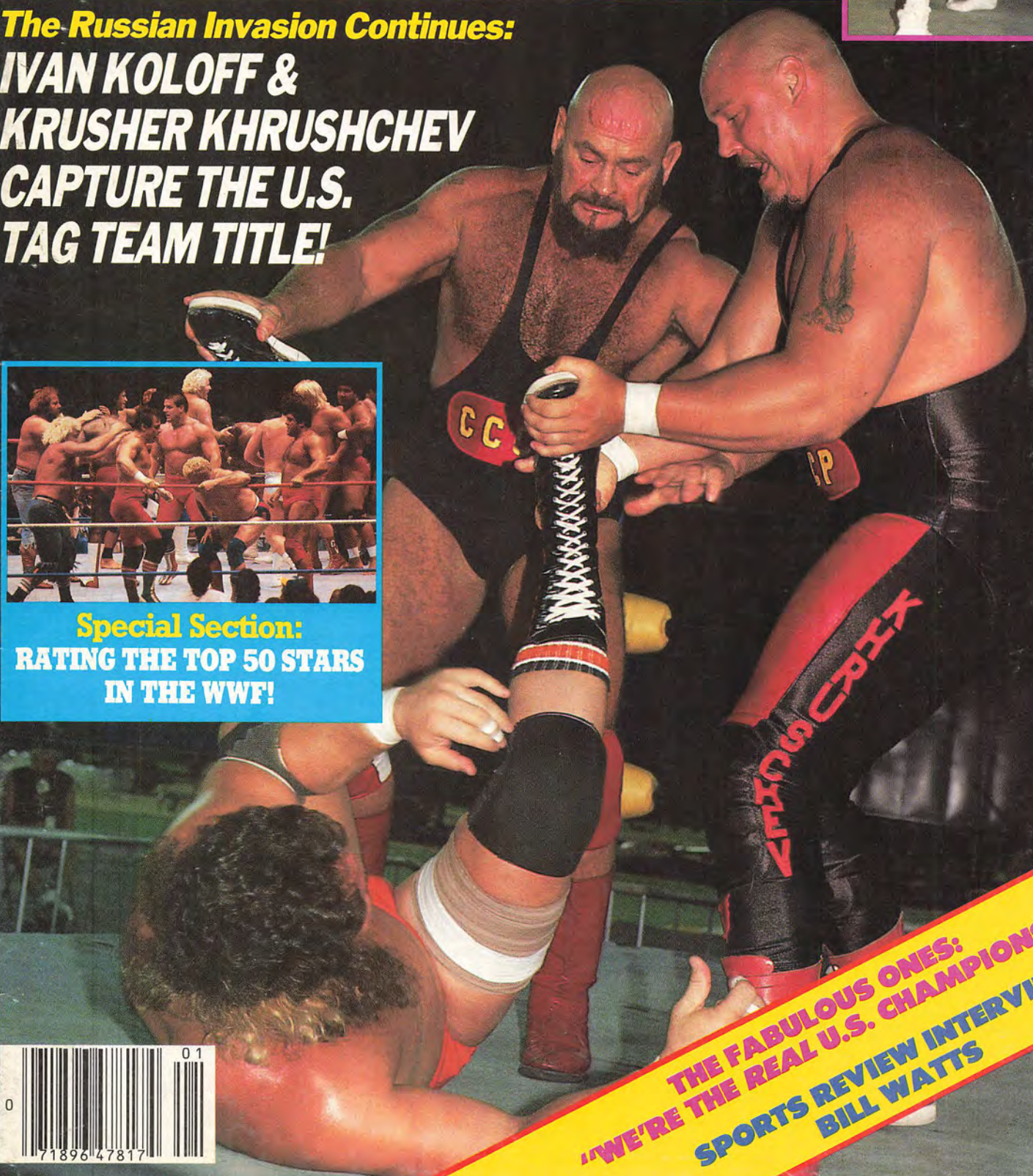


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"WE'RE THE REAL U.S. CHAMPIONS!"
SPORTS REVIEW INTERVIEW:
BILL WATTS**



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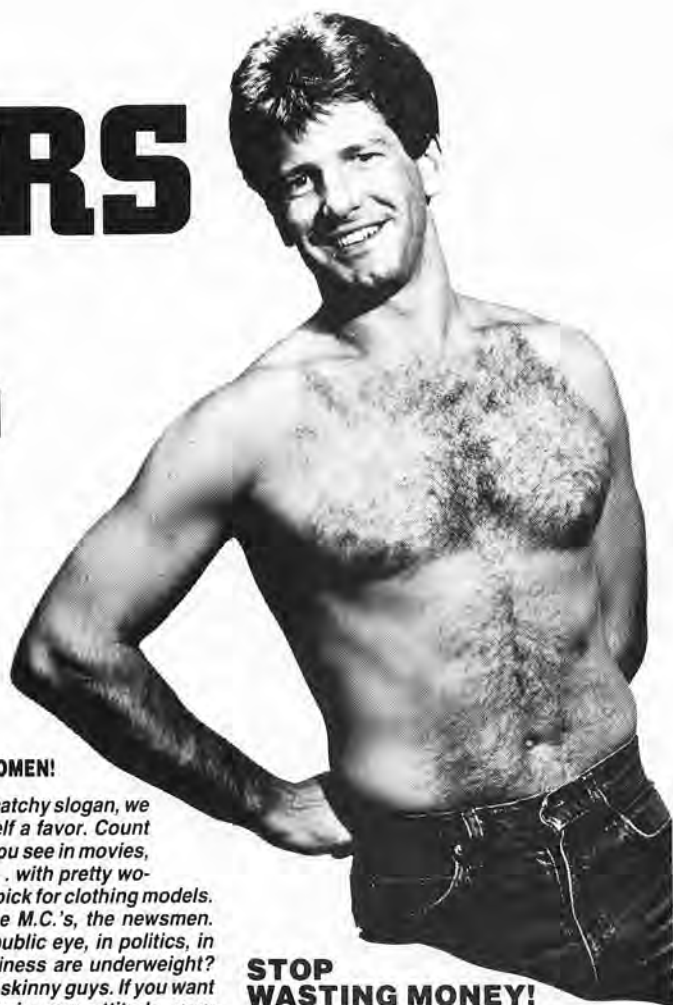
Skinny men are not great lovers. That's a known fact. Add a few pounds and you'll be amazed how it will improve your love-life. Women know this and are conscious of the fact that skinny men can't go the distance. The race is to the strong, the saying goes. And the fellow who is handsomest doesn't look like a stand-in for the family skeleton. Many a man found that gaining a few more pounds has helped him overcome chronic illness, major or minor. Many a doctor has prescribed gaining weight. But so little is publicized about skinny men. The great amount of publicity given to coronary problems has brought the bulk of weight attention to those men who weigh too much. Men who weigh too little never really get equal time. But their problem is no less serious.

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CONTENTS/JANUARY 1987

6 MAILBAG

Albano's Great Moment; It Takes One . . . ; In Praise Of Flair

8 THE TATTLER

Late news as of press time

10 WE ACCUSE

Col. DeBeers is a racist!

12 THE INQUIRING REPORTER

Should Lex Luger leave Florida?

14 ASK THE STARS

Should wrestling employ the instant replay?

18 WRESTLER OF THE MONTH

This issue we honor U.S.-National unification champion Nikita Koloff

22 SPORTS REVIEW INTERVIEW

An exclusive talk with UWF President Bill Watts

26 MISSY HYATT VS. DARK JOURNEY:

THE SAVAGE WAR OF THE BATTLING BEAUTIES!

Fiery women engage in a brutal battle of bodies and words

28 U.S. TAG TEAM TITLE TUG-OF-WAR

● 28 Koloff & Khrushchev Take A Slice Of American Pie

● 29 The Fabulous Ones: "We're The *Real* U.S. Champions!"

34 SPECIAL SECTION: RATING THE TOP 50 STARS IN THE WWF!

Where do your favorites rank? Check here and find out

43 RATINGS ANALYSIS

Looking at odd and unusual ratings categories

44 OFFICIAL WRESTLING RATINGS

The sport's most respected rankings

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ALBANO'S GREAT MOMENT

I thoroughly enjoyed the special section on "Managing To Be Great: Five Wrestling Managers' Finest Hours" (November 1986, *Sports Review Wrestling*). I only wish, however, that you had room to include another five great managers, like Fred Blassie, Sir Oliver Humperdink, Gary Hart, and even some old-timers like The Grand Wizard, Arnold Skaaland, etc.

World heavyweight championship win will be his legacy.

JOSH SCHWARTZ
New York City

IT TAKES ONE . . .

I just read "The Andersons' Bloody Vow: We'll Wreck 'n' Rule The Rock 'n' Rolls!" in the November 1986 issue of *Sports Review Wrestling*.

I'd like to say something to Arn



In 1971, Capt. Lou Albano led Ivan Koloff to the WWF title, thereby ending Bruno Sammartino's 7½-year reign. Josh Schwartz believes that was Albano's greatest accomplishment as a manager.

The best part of all was where you talked about Capt. Lou Albano. I was at Madison Square Garden on January 18, 1971, and was one of the few people there rooting for Ivan Koloff. "The Russian Bear" was at his best on that night and nobody, not even Sammartino, was going to beat him. That was one of the rare nights when you see an athlete at his absolute best.

Albano is right when he says that "no other manager could have done it." Throughout the years, Albano has proven that he is the finest manager in history, and although he'll always be remembered for his ability with managing tag teams, Ivan Koloff's WWF

Anderson. First of all, you've been saying you're going to get rid of The Rock 'n' Roll Express for such a long time. When are you going to do it? We all know that without the help of Ric Flair and Tully Blanchard, you and Ole wouldn't stand a chance of getting rid of Ricky Morton and Robert Gibson.

Now you and Ole claim to have done the damage to Rick's nose. Come on guys, we all know it was Ric Flair! In any case, Rick never left the wrestling scene. He came back no matter what. That, my dears, is a true man! Backing him up all the way is Robert

(Continued on page 46)

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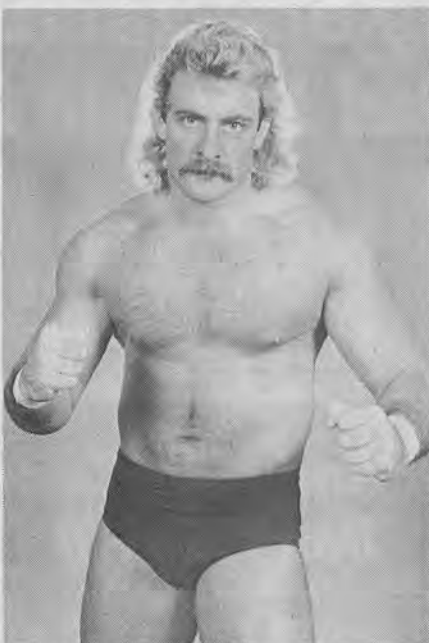
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THE TATTLER

CHARLOTTE, NC: Magnum T.A. was listed in critical condition at Charlotte Hospital after his 1986 Porsche veered off the road and struck a utility pole at 55 miles per hour at 2:30 a.m. on October 14. At press time, T.A. was being treated in the trauma intensive care unit for serious neck injuries.

"Trauma intensive care means that he suffered multiple injuries," said a hospital spokesman. "This is the unit to be in to receive the highest quality technical care." Although hospital officials were asked not to release additional information, it is believed that his injuries, although serious, are not life-threatening.

"Terry was driving southbound on Sardis Road when he apparently lost



MAGNUM T.A.

control of the vehicle," according to a statement released by the Charlotte Police Department. "He veered off the roadway to the right, then crossed back over and off the left side of the roadway and struck a utility pole with the left side panel of the vehicle." It took approximately two hours to remove T.A. from his car. Damages to the car were estimated at \$53,000. A police department spokesman indicated that although it wasn't raining, the road was wet.

Magnum arrived at the hospital in critical condition at 6:30 a.m. and went into surgery for three hours in the early afternoon, after which his condition was upgraded to serious. But early Wednesday morning, his condition was downgraded to critical. He was joined by his wife Tamara Allen and his mother and father.

Fans have responded in tremendous numbers to Magnum's accident. "We received 2,500 calls from fans [the day after the accident]," said the hospital spokesman. "They're sending cards and flowers, although we asked them not to send flowers because he can't receive them in intensive care. The concern they've shown for him is amazing."

—Ken Miranda

TAMPA, FL: The Fabulous Ones' claim that they're the real U.S. champions (see page 29) has gone
(Continued on page 54)

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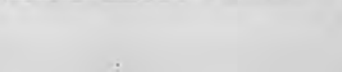
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THE INSULT THAT MADE A MAN OUT OF 'MAC'





From time to time, the editors of this magazine find it necessary to condemn those in wrestling who would subvert the basic principles of decency, integrity, and honesty. Without such truths, our sport will die

COL. DeBEERS SAT on a park bench across the street from a public high school in suburban Chicago and looked on in disgust. It was 2:01 p.m., the school bell had just rung, and a steady stream of students flowed out the door.

"Look at this," DeBeers said. "Black and white students going to the same school together. This is disgusting. In my country, this would never be allowed to happen. That is why American children grow up with no respect for each other. They are taught that blacks and whites are equal. Blacks are sons of ham and thus cursed to be hewers of wood and drawers of water. That is our doctrine."

DeBeers' country is South Africa, a land where blacks are the population majority, but are ruled by a minority white government. According to *The People's Almanac*, the goals of apartheid are "to prevent blacks from 'swamping' the white minority, to let each racial group develop itself separately, and to halt the detribalization of blacks." To reach these goals, white Afrikaner nationalists have imposed "separate and unequal education, job restrictions, restrictions on mobility and residence, and restrictions on political movements and open protest."



Ever since he started wrestling in the AWA, Col. DeBeers has spewed forth his native South Africa's poisonous doctrine of racial segregation. The editors of *Sports Review Wrestling* believe that DeBeers should keep his views to himself and stick to wrestling.

"But best of all," says DeBeers, the words dripping disgustingly out of his mouth, "the black people are given passes and identification numbers, and if they do not carry these they may be arrested and put into jail. In my country, black people are dealt with like the

cattle that they are. Ha! Ha! Ha! Kick them! Beat them! Spit in their eyes!"

Obviously, DeBeers is dedicated to his country's ways of doing things. He honestly believes that blacks are inferior to whites, and has come here to

(Continued on page 56)

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The Inquiring Reporter

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THE QUESTION:

"Should Lex Luger leave Florida?"

THE ANSWERS:

Robert Wisner, Detroit: "Of course he should leave Florida. The man simply has run out of good competition, especially after he teamed up with Barry Windham. A change of scenery would benefit him immensely. He needs to be wrestling the top men from all over the NWA. The wrestlers he faced in Florida did not adequately prepare him for his title matches against Ric Flair."

Kathy MacDougle, St. Petersburg, FL: "C'mon, you're asking a young single woman who lives down here if Lex Luger should leave? I'd be heartbroken if I couldn't get another close look at those pecs and abs. Seriously, as an objective wrestling fan, I believe that for the good of his career Lex ought to consider wrestling in other areas. It would move him that much closer to the NWA World championship."

Carl Klosterman, Sacramento, CA: "Mr. Luger has a problem, but I don't feel the least bit sorry for him. From the start of his career, Luger has been associated with questionable characters: first Percy Pringle, then Hiro Matsuda, and now Bob Roop—or should I say Maha Singh? When you



Lex Luger has his hand raised in victory by his adviser, Bob Roop. Fans are split over whether or not Luger should leave Florida and wrestle in more prominent areas of the country, where he could test his skills against a wider variety of opponents.

cast your lot with such a sorry bunch, you're bound to have some trouble. That's why Luger is still stuck in the Sunshine State, and maybe he doesn't deserve to leave."

Ray Santini, Yonkers, NY: "Luger should stay right where he is because he has to develop his scientific skills a little more before he's ready to branch out. Then when he does move to other areas, his impact will be greater. Flori-

da has always been known as a hotbed of wrestling, so Luger shouldn't be ashamed or anything of continuing his career there."

Bill Davis, Ames, IA: "I've only followed Luger through your magazines, so I don't have a lot of firsthand knowledge about the man. From what I've read, he seems to be a first-rate competitor who's disposed of all his
(Continued on page 52)

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TOP WRESTLE YOUR QUESTION

Do you have a question you want answered by 10 of wrestling's top stars? Each month, *Sports Review Wrestling* will publish a fan's "Question of the Month," which will be answered by the sport's top superstars. If you have a question you would like to see answered, send it to:

ASK THE STARS
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THE "QUESTION OF THE MONTH" IS:

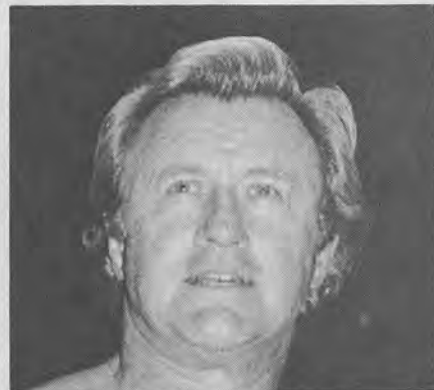
"Should the instant replay be used in wrestling as it is in football?"

Submitted by:
David Doyle
Braintree, MA



EDDIE GILBERT

"Listen, man, I'm sick of all this instant replay crap. All of a sudden, the officials in the UWF decided to use instant replay—but only in my matches and only when they wanted to steal the tag team belts from me and Sting. Well, they succeeded, but it ain't gonna last for long. We're getting those belts back, instant replay or not. And no, there shouldn't be instant replay in professional wrestling. What the heck do you need it for?"



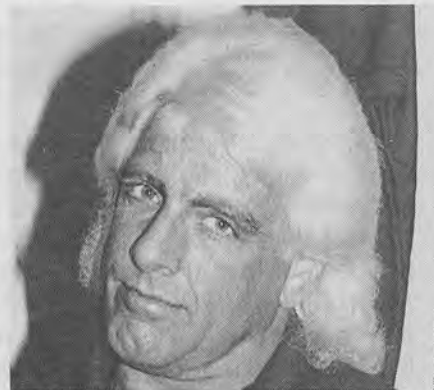
NICK BOCKWINKEL

"I'm a traditionalist, and I've learned through the years that wrestling referees are among the best, if not *the* best, in all of professional sports. I have an entire library of tapes in my home, which I re-view periodically, and for every bad call there's an outstanding call which I don't think any other person could have made, except an AWA official. I think there's nothing wrong with wrestling. If it ain't broke, why fix it?"



BARRY WINDHAM

"Man, you really came to the right person for this one. When I see a guy like Ron Bass win a title the way he did, all I can say is that something must be done. The referee didn't see what was going on, and in that case instant replay should have been used. A lot goes on in a wrestling ring, and it's asking a lot for one guy to see everything. I can't think of anything bad that would come out of instant replay. The time has definitely come, although too late for me."



RIC FLAIR

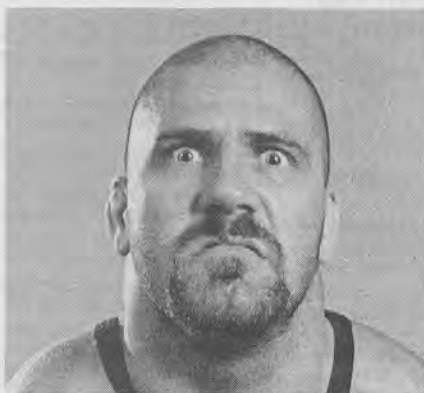
"I know why you want instant replay, baby, so you can see The Nature Boy over and over again, doing what he does best, beating up on Dusty Rhodes and The Rock 'n' Rolls and showing everybody how it is. This way, everybody could see that Space Mountain is the man, the only man in professional wrestling, who can get the job done. The only man with the grace, power, and good looks to carry an entire federation on his back. That's me, baby, and you know it."

RS ANSWER OF THE MONTH



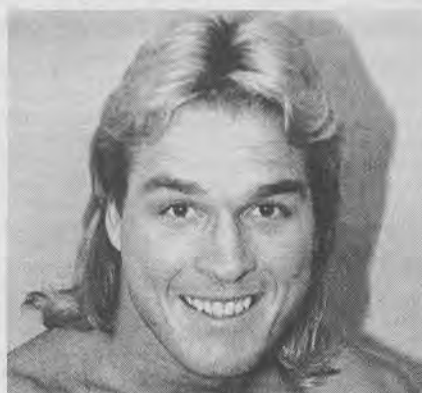
VERNE GAGNE

"It's something we've looked at, and it has many pros and cons. I think that for it to work realistically, we'd have to have guidelines for how it's used. You just can't stop a match to see if a man did something illegally. Football is different, since there is a break after each play, but in pro wrestling it could only be used to decide whether a pin was legal. For instance, if a man had his foot on the ropes, or in a case where the referee was distracted."



NIKITA KOLOFF

"Instant replay, bah! Capitalist propaganda machine. Americans do not know what they're seeing the first time, they make it worse second time. Referee should not be watching television. In homeland, people do not waste time watching television. My comrades work hard and do not make mistakes. Problem with American wrestling is bad officiating. Answer is bringing in Russian referees to do matches. That would be much better."



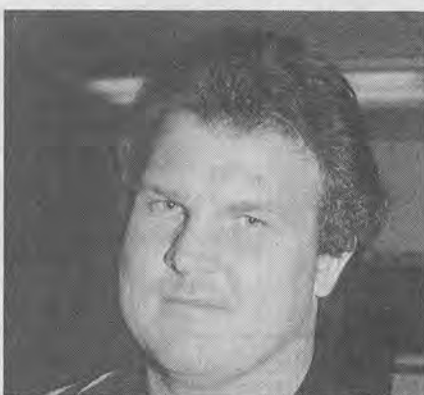
TERRY TAYLOR

"I think it's a great idea, especially in title matches, because those belts are the most important things in all of professional sports and it's important that the person who wins one does so fairly. I've been wrestling for a long time, and if I've ever won a title or a match unfairly, I'll be the first to admit it and give it back. If instant replay can guarantee that the integrity of wrestling will be upheld, then I'm all for it. Let's get it going!"



SIR OLIVER HUMPERDINK

"In my many years of studies and research on the sport of professional wrestling, I've learned one very important thing. The referee is never right, and two referees are even wronger. That's what you're asking, isn't it, jerks? You're asking me this question because you know I hate referees and you know that it'll get me mad. But let me tell you, I can control my temper, and I'm not gonna get riled up by some lowdown sneaky writer, so you can get lost!"



CARL FERGIE

"Professionally speaking, anything that can be done to improve the game and preserve the integrity of wrestling should be implemented. As a referee, I've often wished that I could get a second look at a controversial occurrence, just so that I could be sure that I made the correct decision. Listen, referees are human and we're susceptible to error. Personally, I think the UWF's idea of using two referees in certain matches is excellent. This would take that a step further."



LANCE VON ERICH

"I don't think so. You know what they say, too many cooks spoil the broth. In every walk of life people make errors, and you just can't turn human beings into computers, or put them at the mercy of technology. The referees in World Class do a very fine job and this would be like a slap in the face, kind of like usurping their authority. Wrestlers would quickly lose respect for the ref because they would know that they can challenge his decisions. That can't be allowed to happen."

BACK ISSUES OF



THE Wrestler

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May 1979/Stories include: Steamboat, Brody, Valiants, Race.

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August 1985/BONUS 4-PG. COLOR SECTION! Plus: Warriors, Magnum T.A., Sheik & Volkoff, McGraw.

September 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Von Erich, Savage, R&R Express.

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January 1986/20th Anniversary Issue! 10 Greatest Wrestlers, Rhodes, Hogan, Sammartino.

February 1986/Stories include: Hogan, Orndorff, Flair, Hansen.

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August 1986/Stories include: Hogan at WrestleMania 2, Garvins, Martel, Fab Ones, Williams.

September 1986/Stories include: Rhodes & T.A., Andre, Adams, Hall, Windham, Journey vs. Maxine.

October 1986/Stories include: Flair-Lugar, Savage, Fantastics, Warriors.

November 1986/Stories include: Warriors-Flair, Bulldogs, Watts, Adams.

December 1986/Stories include: Hogan-Adonis, R&R Express, Baby Doll.

INSIDE WRESTLING

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NIKITA KOLOFF

ON SEPTEMBER 28, Nikita Koloff unified the United States and the National heavyweight titles by defeating National champion Wahoo McDaniel at The Omni in Atlanta. It was the latest triumph in a series of triumphs for the 25-year-old Russian, who has consistently been ranked among the top 10 wrestlers in the world. His latest accomplishment has also earned him the distinction of being named *Sports Review Wrestling's* Wrestler of the Month.

By now, most wrestling fans know the story. Denied the right to compete in the 1984 Olympics because of his country's boycott, Nikita was brought over to the United States by his uncle Ivan, whom he admired as a youth. "I grew up hearing how great Uncle Ivan was in America," Nikita says, "how he destroyed weak American competition to become world champion. [Ivan was WWF champion for a short time in 1971.] I tell Uncle Ivan I also could do this."

"I also could do this." Possibly the understatement of the decade. From the start, promoters, fans, and fellow wrestlers were impressed by Nikita's raw power and aggressiveness. He won his first matches handily, disposing of most prelim wrestlers in five minutes or less. He soon teamed up in six-man matches with Ivan and Don Kernodle, then the NWA World tag team champions. After Dusty Rhodes and Manny Fernandez won the tag team title in a cage match in October 1984, Ivan and Nikita brutally beat Kernodle, forcing him out of wrestling for several months.

In December 1984, Krusher Khrushchev joined the Russians in claiming the NWA six-man title. On March 18, 1985, Ivan and Nikita beat Rhodes and Fernandez for the NWA World tag team title. In an unprecedented move, Ivan announced that any two of the three Russians could defend the title at any time; NWA officials did not object.

Despite being a tag team champion, Nikita—with Ivan's guidance—devoted his energies to going after Ric Flair's NWA World championship. Beginning at The Great American Bash on July 6, 1985, Flair and Nikita had a series of bouts in which Nikita very nearly took the title. Flair has said Nikita may be the toughest challenger he has ever faced.

Soon after getting back into tag team competition with Ivan and Khrushchev, Nikita faced a wall of danger called The Road Warriors, who took it upon themselves to defend the honor of America in their unique way. "It might just be a stinkin' country," Hawk said, "but it's *our* stinkin' country."

The war was on. Although there were no clear victories for either side, the brutality and power displayed in the ring awed even the most jaded wrestling observer. Nikita, however, grew tired of his clashes with the Warriors, and soon set his sights on another target: the U.S. championship belonging to Magnum

T.A., who had won the title back from Tully Blanchard at Starrcade '85.

Nikita won the belt after a best-of-seven series, an unusual way to decide a wrestling championship. But these were no ordinary circumstances. The matches were sanctioned after Magnum was stripped of the title by the NWA for striking NWA President Bob Geigel. Geigel was reprimanding Magnum for attacking Nikita at a televised press conference called to announce a U.S. title match between Magnum and Nikita. Magnum attacked Koloff because the Russian had insulted Magnum's mother, who was in attendance at the press conference.

All the matches were controversial, depending who you spoke to. Nikita won the first three, but Magnum fought back to take the next three. The seventh and deciding match resulted in a title change that shocked the wrestling world. For the first time in history, a Russian held the U.S. title. "This proves Russian superiority," proud uncle Ivan boasted. "Nikita will be the greatest U.S. champion ever. You will see how he dominates these sorry American wrestlers."

When the NWA announced a unification of the U.S. and National championships this summer, Tully Blanchard was National champion, but in September he lost to McDaniel. That did not concern The Russian Nightmare. "That stupid Indian," he scoffed. "I tear feathers right off his head. He fat, slow, and dumb. No match for Nikita."

Although Nikita dominated the match, it ended in controversy. Nikita hit Wahoo with a chair and smashed him with the Russian Sickle. As the referee counted, Wahoo managed to drape his foot over the rope, but Ivan pushed it off, so the referee never saw it.

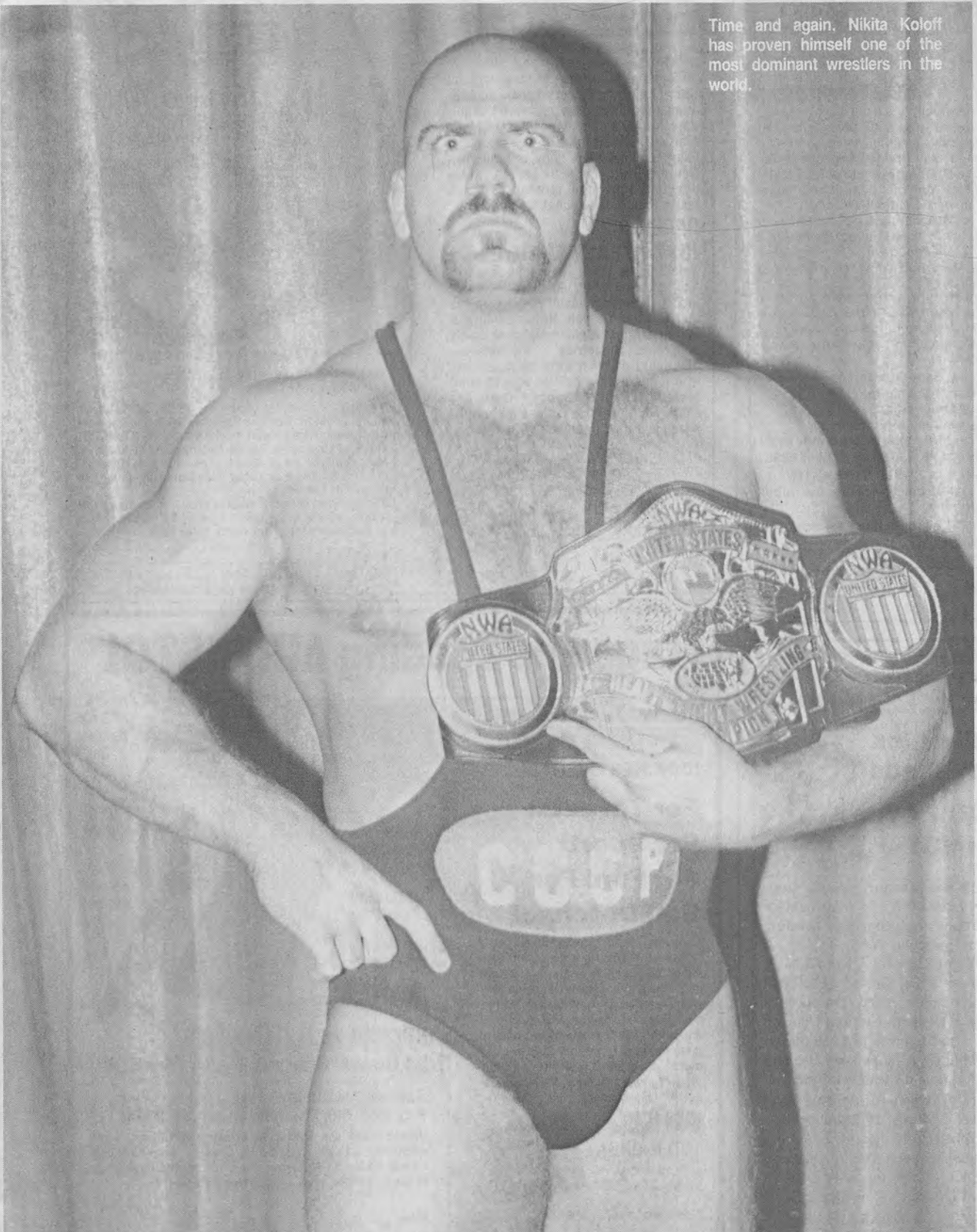
That night in The Omni was a double success for the Koloffs. Aside from Nikita's victory, Ivan and Khrushchev won the newly-created U.S. tag team belts (replacing the former National tag team belts) by beating The Kansas Jayhawks, Dutch Mantel and Bobby Jagers, in a one-night tournament. Never before have the Russians had more influence in the NWA.

Nikita Koloff is now without a doubt the number two wrestler in the NWA. Gone are the days when the U.S. and National champions argued over who was the number one contender to the World championship. On that night in The Omni, when the National title passed out of existence, Nikita reasserted his dominance of the sport.

"Listen, all you people. Nikita is best there is. It is only matter of time before Nikita beat Flair. Flair, you can run, but you no can hide."

From any other wrestler, that may be considered an idle threat. But from Nikita Koloff, our Wrestler of the Month, it is a frightening challenge. □

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March 1978/Andre-Flair, Mascaras, Koloff, Rhodes, Inoki.
September 1979/Flair-McDaniel, Garvin, Ladd, Rhodes.

February 1980/Rhodes-Funk, Race, Spoiler, Brisco.

May 1980/Koloff-Anderson, Brody-Spoiler, Graham, Andre.

June 1980/Graham, Patera, Rhodes, Lawler, Zbyszko.

July 1980/Bruno-Graham, Samoans, Star Wars 1980.

October 1980/Hogan, Flair, Wrestling II, Super D.

January 1981/Morales-Fuji, Zbyszko, Thornton, Keim.

March 1981/SPECIAL EDITION—Results of 1980 Fan Awards Poll

April 1981/Atlas, Flair, Moondogs, Wrestling II.

June 1981/Morales-Khan, Lawler, Slater, Piper.

August 1981/Freebirds, Mascaras, Wrestling II, Brisco.

September 1981/Backlund-Mosca, Freebirds, Flair, Rich, Junkyard Dog.

December 1981/Muraco-Morales, Patera, Steele, Andre.

March 1982/Valentine, Brisco-Funk, Steele, Flair, Hayes.

April 1982/Spoiler, Idol-Hayes, Morales, Super D, Ladd.

May 1982/Rich-Flair, Backlund, Superstar, Dillon, Wrestling II.

June 1982/Tommy Rich, Jimmy Snuka, Wrestlers rate each other.

July 1982/Steamboat-Idol, Albano, Rhodes, Patera.

August 1982/Piper-Rich, Flair-Slater, Rhodes, Valentine, Bockwinkel.

October 1982/Funk-Abdullah, Orton, Kabuki, Von Erich.

November 1982/Piper, Abdullah, Saito, Von Erich, Mascaras.

December 1982/Backlund-Rose, Rhodes-Flair, Albano, Humperdink.

January 1983/Rich, McDaniel-Valentine, Patera, Hogan, Sammons.

February 1983/Flair-Race, Morales-Rose, Patera, Bravo, Spoiler.

March 1983/Flair-Bass, Snuka, Sullivan, Steamboat, Patera.

April 1983/Backlund-Graham, Briscos, Rhodes, Hogan, Sammons.

May 1983/Muraco, Dillon, Sullivan, Reed, Brisco, Von Erich.

June 1983/Piper, Bockwinkel-Patterson, Brody, Sullivan, Baba.

July 1983/Valiant-Humperdink, Martel, Hernandez, Murdoch, Armstrong.

October 1983/Martel-Valentine, Mulligan, Lawler, Von Erichs, Bruno.

November 1983/Andre-Mulligan, Kamala-Brody, Slater, Backlund.

December 1983/Windham-LeDuc, Santana, Sullivan, Garvin.

January 1984/Andre-Abdullah, Bockwinkel, Gilbert, Windham, Flair, Mosca.

February 1984/Rich-Sawyer, Idol-Hansen, Martel, Parsons, Von Erich.

March 1984/Starrcade '83, Closeups on Atlanta and Dallas cards.

April 1984/Von Erich-Gordy, Dillon & Nagasaki, Graham, DiBise, Orndorff.

May 1984/LeDuc-Sawyer, Assassins, The Men Who Make Wrestling Fly!

June 1984/Windham-Flair, Gilbert, Sawyer, Bockwinkel, Tsuruta.

July 1984/Flair-Gordy, Duggan, Blanchard, Brisco, AWA tag tourney.

August 1984/Rich & Gilbert, Adams-Hayes, Von Erich, Faces Of Wrestling.

September 1984/Flair-Steamboat, Freebirds-Von Erichs—Special coverage of two big cards.

October 1984/Sullivan-Rhodes, Freebirds video, Atlas, Orange Bowl card.

November 1984/Von Erich & Billy Jack, Andre, Fab Ones, Summer Wars!

December 1984/Rich-Gilbert, Martel, Mascaras, Youngblood, World Class.

January 1985/Flair-McDaniel, Missing Link, Backlund, Fabulous Ones, Pro Wrestling USA, Valentine.

May 1985/Albano, Freebirds-Flair, Steamboat, Hernandez, Las Vegas.

June 1985/Pro Wrestling U.S.A., Von Erich, Richter, Windham, Taylor.

July 1985/Von Erich, WrestleMania, bloodiest matches, Backlund, Snuka.

August 1985/Flair-Nikita, Orndorff, Slaughter, Parade of Champions II.

September 1985/Adams-Von Erich, Orndorff, Sawyer, Kamala, Barr.

October 1985/Martel-Hayes, Richter, Savage, Adams, T.A., Warriors.

November 1985/Freebirds-Warriors, Mid-South, Haynes, Rhodes, Savage.

December 1985/Hogan, Zbyszko-Martel, Murdoch, Dillon, fiendish faces.

January 1986/Savage-Santana, Abdullah, Humongous, Von Raschke, Comiskey Park, Taylor.

February 1986/Junkyard Dog, Rude, Patrick, Garvin, Reed, Datebook.

March 1986/Starrcade '85, Ventura, Windham, Sunshine, Slaughter.

April 1986/Savage-Hogan, Martel-Hansen, 1985 in Pictures, Warriors, DiBise.

May 1986/Sammartino, R&R Express, Sunshine-Hyatt, Slater, Devastating Holds, Hall & Hennig.

June 1986/Hogan-Muraco, Midnight Express, Freebirds, Battle of Belts II.

July 1986/Orndorff-Piper, Blanchard T.A., Matches of '80s, Shepherders, Bockwinkel, Bulldogs.

August 1986/Crockett Cup Tourney, Jake Roberts, Midnight Rockers, Von Erichs, Wrestling II.

September 1986/Bulldogs, Blanchard-Gibson, Lugar, Dundee, UWF tourney.

October 1986/Orndorff, Rude-Brody, Bash, Bockwinkel, Gordy, Adams.

November 1986/Andersons-R&R Express, Machine, Gordy, Managers.

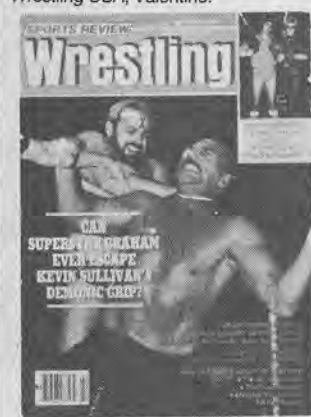
December 1986/Machines, Fantastics, Warriors, WWF Muchnick Tourney.



MARCH 1982

October 1981/Rich-Race, Hogan-Hansen, Moondogs, Freebirds, Putski-Koloff.

November 1981/Rhodes-DiBise, Steamboat, Mulligan, McDaniel, Spoiler.



FEBRUARY 1985

February 1985/Sullivan-Graham, Hernandez & Nicola Roberts, Bruno Jr., Steamboat, Warriors.

March 1985/Starrcade '84 featuring Flair, Rhodes, Steamboat, Koloffs, 1985 Datebook, Hayes, wrestling school.

April 1985/Von Erich-Blackwell, Haynes-Barr, Hart, Irwins, 1984 in Pictures, Blair.

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INTERVIEW

BILL WATTS

BILL WATTS' PLACE in wrestling history was ensured back in 1965 when he met WWF World heavy-

weight champion Bruno Sammartino in front of the biggest crowd in the history of the old Madison Square

Garden. Few who saw that match will ever forget it, nor will they forget Watts' prior teaming—and subsequent feuding—with Sammartino.

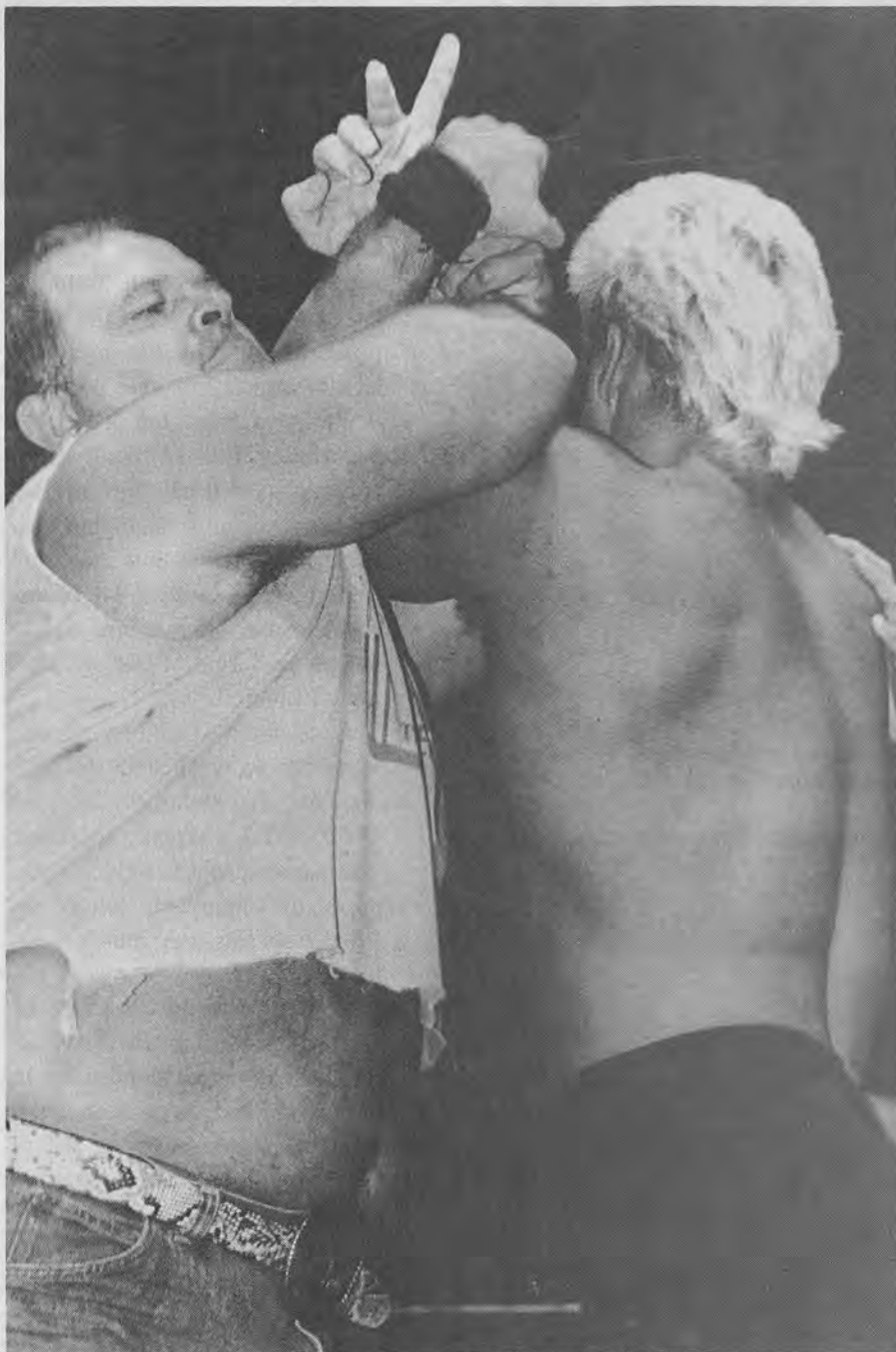
But things have changed since then. Watts gave up his rulebreaking ways to become a fan favorite, and now, 21 years later, he's the President of the UWF (formerly Mid-South Wrestling). And what a year it has been for the UWF! First came the name change, then came an influx of some of the most talented and exciting wrestlers in the world.

The UWF is now considered one of the top three promotions in wrestling, and its wrestlers are among the best—and toughest—anywhere. *Bill Watts Presents*, the UWF's weekly television program, is the highest-rated syndicated sports show in the country, and the federation is expanding into new areas. And when the editors of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*, the world's largest-selling wrestling magazine, decided to sponsor its first-ever tournament, the UWF got the nod.

Bill Watts is the man who makes the UWF go. Whether he's behind his desk or enforcing UWF rules by climbing into the ring and taking on the men he governs, Watts always seems to be in the picture. Watts has done it all, and as a result was chosen *PWI's* "Man of the Year" for 1986.

Sports Review Wrestling's man who does it all, Editor-in-Chief Peter King, recently spoke with Watts about the growth of the UWF, his unusual ring involvement, and the first-ever *PWI/UWF* \$50,000 Challenge Tournament, which will be in its final three weeks when this issue hits the stands.





UWF President Bill Watts proudly displays the plaque he received for being named *Pro Wrestling Illustrated's* "Man of the Year" (opposite page). Watts is the head of a rough-and-tumble organization and isn't afraid to occasionally get into the ring to punish rulebreakers, as he does against Sting (above).

PETER KING:

Bill, the UWF has been a hotbed of activity over the past year. In fact, so much has gone on, and so much is going on, that I really can't decide what to ask you first. I guess I'll congratulate you on being named *Pro Wrestling Illustrated's* "Man of the Year."

BILL WATTS:

Thank you, Peter. It's really quite an honor, although if I might, let me deflect most of the credit. The wrestlers themselves

are really the main reason behind the tremendous success we've had. There are some tremendously gifted athletes in this area, and they're all very motivated. Also, let's not forget one of my assistants, Ken Mantell, referees like Carl Fergie and Tommy Gilbert, who have performed beyond the call of duty, and of course our television announcer Jim Ross. When you get right down to it, Jim is really the front man for the UWF.

PK: I'll tell you, Bill, I have a very busy schedule, but I always make time to watch the tapes of the UWF television shows. They might be the best in the country.

BW: We like to think so, Peter, because we put a lot of work into the production of our programs and also arranging the cards. You can't forget that television is the only way we can get our product out to many people. Our image is based on what people see on TV.

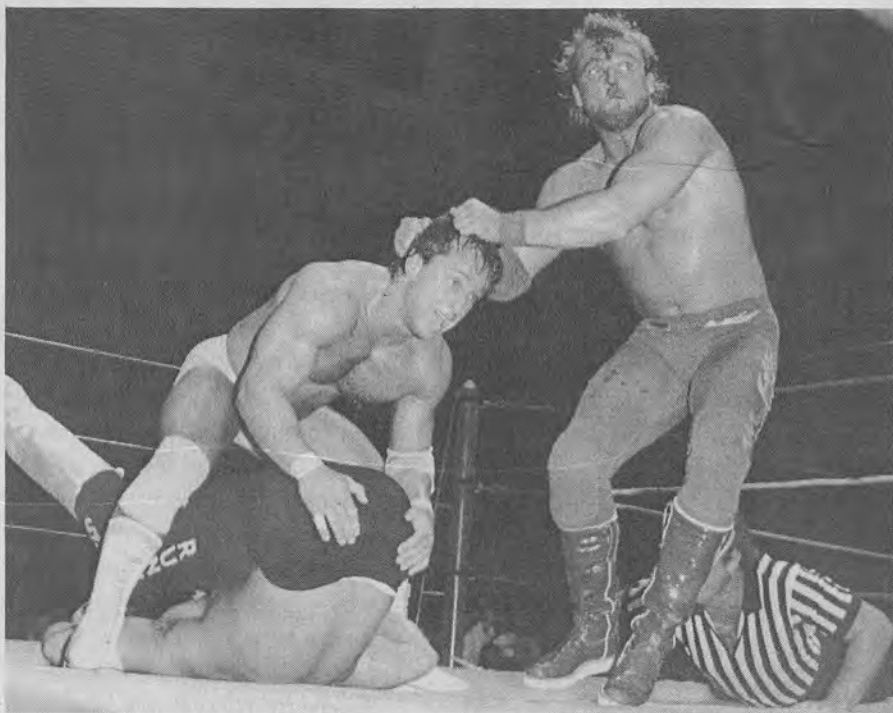
PK: I'd have to agree with that, because in reality the UWF's image is that of a rough, tough, and very aggressive federation. Many people refer to it as the outlaw league of professional wrestling. Would you agree with that?

BW: (Laughs) Well, as you know, I try to keep things under control, but if you're talking about men like The Freebirds, Eddie Gilbert, John Tatum, Ted DiBiase, and The Fantastics, I'd say you're right in saying that our men know how to mix it up and generate plenty of excitement. Put it this way: If you're going to make it in the UWF, you're gonna have to put up with plenty of pain, punishment, and blood.

PK: And plenty of Bill Watts.

BW: Yeah, I guess so Peter, and I know what you're getting at. But you see, the rules that apply to other areas just don't apply to the UWF. You're not gonna be able to punish a man like Gilbert or The Freebirds by handing down a fine or suspension. These guys just don't care. They need to be taught a lesson, and I'm the only person who can do that. To tell you the truth, I think I did a pretty good job. Gilbert has calmed down considerably and The Freebirds are finally beginning to stick to just wrestling.

PK: Speaking of which, the acquisition of The Freebirds was a major move for the UWF. You paid them a reported one million dollars to make the jump from World Class wrestling, and it



Just as Sting is about to be pinned by Tommy Rogers, Eddie Gilbert comes in to save his man (above). Buddy Roberts, UWF TV champion, enjoys grabbing Steve Williams by the hair (below). This is the kind of action fans can expect in the PWI/UWF Challenge Tournament.



seems to have been worth every penny.

BW: Well, yes and no. They've caused me an awful lot of trouble. When I first signed them, I told all three that if they didn't behave and follow our rules, they'd be out of here before they knew it. They agreed, but I knew it wouldn't last for long. I think the basic problem with The Freebirds is a lack of respect for other people. I don't know why, but it's pretty aggravating. But they're all talented wrestlers and let's face it, Terry Gordy is our champion and Buddy Roberts is now television champ. They cause a lot of excitement and bring people out to the arenas. That, Peter, is what it's all about.

PK: This is really the first chance we've had to speak since the signing of the contract for the PWI/UWF \$50,000 Challenge Tournament, which I think is an important venture for both of us. What does this tournament mean to the UWF?

BW: It's extremely important. First of all, *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* is the most respected publication in our sport, and recognition from your magazines means a lot to us. I think that every wrestler dreams of the day when his picture will be on the cover of *PWI*, and a federation such as ours, which has been struggling for years to really hit the big time, knew that when we started getting recognition from *PWI*, we'd have a pretty good idea that we were reaching our goal. That we were chosen for your first tournament is an honor.

PK: We're certainly pleased to have you along. You didn't enter the tournament yourself, did you?

BW: No, I didn't.

PK: Any reason?

BW: Well, I really didn't think it would be right for the President of the UWF to win his own tournament (laughs)! Truthfully, though, I didn't see any reason to, and anyway, running a tour-

nament such as this takes a lot of hard work. I'd rather stand back and make sure everything is running the way it's supposed to. Also, I think our talent pool is good enough without me joining in.

PK: Who do you think will win?

BW: I'd rather not say.

PK: Care to venture a guess?

BW: Not really. Who do *you* think will win?

PK: I can't decide. But c'mon, how about giving us a list, not in any particular order, of the four men you think are most likely to win.

BW: Fair enough. I'll go with Terry Gordy, Steve Williams, Chris Adams, and Terry Taylor. Not in any order, you understand.

PK: Of course. You mentioned Chris Adams, and I'd like to talk about him for a moment. Signing Adams was yet another major acquisition for the UWF, wasn't it?

BW: You'd better believe it, Peter, and we're extremely pleased to have him. Chris, of course, was World Class heavyweight champion, and he's certainly a top competitor. He also encompasses all the characteristics we look for when recruiting a wrestler. He's tough and he never gives up. He's gonna be one of our top stars, and I can see him going right after Gordy.

PK: Can he beat him?

BW: Maybe, maybe not; but that's one of the great things about the UWF. It's a very talented, well-balanced league, and anything can happen. The UWF represents what wrestling has come to, and where it's going. I think that anyone who hasn't seen us before will be very pleasantly surprised when they see us for the first time. This is quality wrestling, and we're only getting better.

PK: To coin a phrase from my favorite baseball team, "wrestling like it oughta be."

BW: Exactly.

PK: Thank you, Bill.

BW: It's been my pleasure. □

Wrestling 86

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Dark Journey: vs. Missy Hyatt

Photos by Bill Apter & Peter Rene

THE SAVAGE WAR OF THE BATTLING BEAUTIES!

Dark Journey knows that Missy Hyatt's influence in wrestling stretches far beyond the confines of the ring. Hyatt's views may indeed be infecting our nation's youth, and Dark Journey's campaign is designed to counter that effect

DARK JOURNEY STOOD behind a curtain in the auditorium of the James Madison Elementary School, waiting to address 250 anxiously assembled students on the dangers of drug abuse. She turned to Mrs. Babcock, who teaches the third grade, and asked what the biggest problem was that she faced in the classroom.

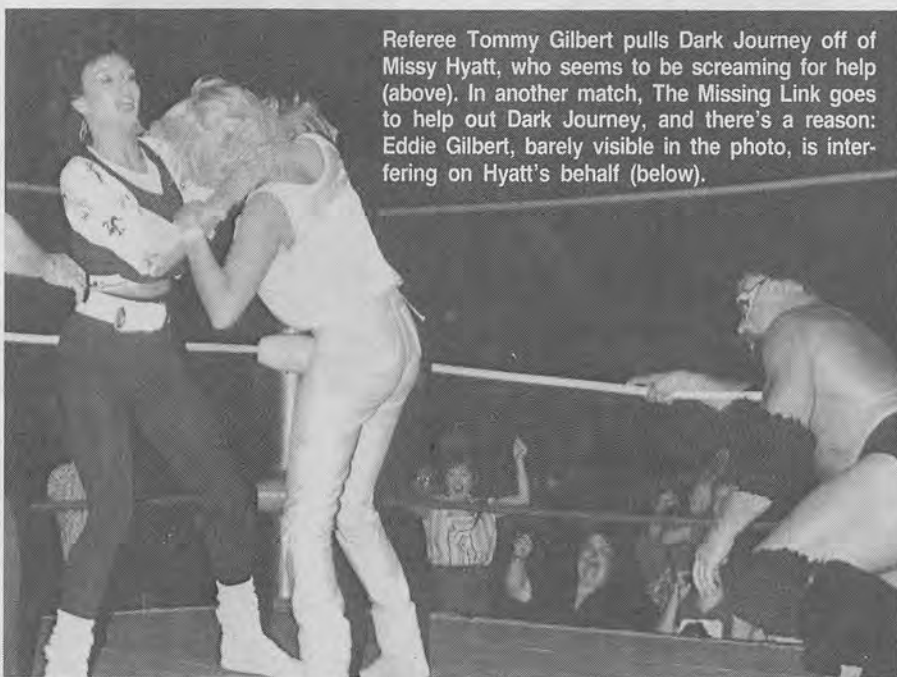
"Oh, no doubt it's television," the teacher replied. "The children emulate so many of the things they see on TV—the boys fight and shoot with play guns. The girls wear makeup and flirt. It's a tremendous problem we teachers are up against. That's why I'm so happy that you're here. You're a positive influence on so many youngsters."

Dark Journey considered this information for several moments. "Do many of the girls emulate Missy Hyatt?" she asked. Mrs. Babcock was quiet. She looked at Dark Journey as if embarrassed. "Actually, Missy Hyatt is quite popular among the little girls. It's quite disheartening to ask an eight year old a math question and have her snap back at you, '*I don't need your tired old math. When I grow up, I'll have rich men count my money for me.*' "

Like a mischievous cat, Missy Hyatt arched her back, luxuriating in the gurgling swell of her whirlpool. The long fingers of her left hand were wrapped around a glass of champagne; her other hand held a gold-plated telephone receiver close to her ear.

"Oh, yes mother, yes, yes. You can't believe how good Eddie has been. What? Yes! He got me the fur. And listen to this, mother. He's put a down payment on a Porsche. What? No, not one of those little things. A big one. In red, to match my nail color! That Eddie! No, Johnny is . . . well, mommy, no, Johnny and I . . . oh, you know about that, don't you? Yes, Johnny's not . . . oh, don't worry, Eddie treats me just fine, mommy. Just fine!"

" . . . must be whacked if you use crack. Celebrate life. Life is hope. Drugs are dope. If any of your friends



Referee Tommy Gilbert pulls Dark Journey off of Missy Hyatt, who seems to be screaming for help (above). In another match, The Missing Link goes to help out Dark Journey, and there's a reason: Eddie Gilbert, barely visible in the photo, is interfering on Hyatt's behalf (below).

offer you drugs, offer them help. By smoking that joint, snorting that line, sticking that needle in their arms, they are reaching out for help. Because only desperate, lonely, and confused people need drugs. Acquire a hobby, not a habit. Stay away."

The children rose and gave Dark Journey a standing ovation. She smiled her thanks and encouraged questions from the audience. One little girl—no more than 10 years of age—raised her hand. Dark Journey asked her to

(Continued on page 58)

UNITED STATES TAG TEAM

IVAN KOLOFF & KRUSHER KHRUSHCHEV TAKE A SLICE OF AMERICAN PIE



IVAN KOLOFF & KRUSHER KHRUSHCHEV

JUDD RAY SCOTT is an American through and through. His father and mother were born in America, their parents were born in America, and *their* parents were born in America. Back in 1505, his ancestors came over from Scotland and helped build the New World. This is something Judd Ray Scott is intensely and fiercely proud of.

Judd Ray Scott is a wrestling fan through and through. He lives in Atlanta, and has been known to travel around the United States to see wrestling matches—as many as 75 cards per year. He saw every show on The Great American Bash tour. He's never missed a Starrcade. Gordon Solie is his hero; Joe Pedicino finishes a close second. Every Saturday he watches *Superstars Of Wrestling* on WATL-TV in Atlanta for eight hours. Every Saturday he's disappointed when the show is over.

Judd Ray Scott is the John Doe of wrestling, a hard-working American who puts in a solid 40-hour week and looks to the squared circle for an outlet, a means of entertainment, a way to escape from the rigors of life itself. He's proud of America because he's part of it, an integral part of the way of life we citizens enjoy.

But for Judd Ray Scott, and millions of other Americans, September 29, 1986, was wrestling's Pearl Harbor Day, a day that will live in infamy. For on September 29, 1986, in Atlanta,

(Continued on page 30)

The Russian influence on professional wrestling continues to grow. Not only does Nikita Koloff hold the U.S. title, but Ivan Koloff and Krusher Khrushchev are now in possession of the U.S. tag team title.

TITLE TUG-OF-WAR

STEVE KEIRN & STAN LANE: “WE’RE THE *REAL* U.S. CHAMPIONS!”

JUDD RAY SCOTT is a proud American living in Atlanta. He is despondent over having seen the Russians take over the U.S. singles and tag team titles. Indeed, those tag belts were won by Ivan Koloff and Krusher Khrushchev in Scott’s own backyard: The Omni.

Take heart, Judd Ray Scott. All is not lost. Down in Florida, land of alligators, condos, and oranges, one of the last bastions of wrestling patriotism is still holding the fort, fighting off the Russians, and staking its claim to the country they love.

“We’re the *real* U.S. tag team champions, and don’t you forget it,” growls Steve Keirn, one half of The Fabulous Ones.

“You’d better believe it, brother,” Stan Lane, the other half, chimes in. “They can call that title whatever they want, but it doesn’t matter. There’s only one U.S. tag team title, and we have it!”

The Fabulous Ones’ aggravation is easily understood. For some reason, when the NWA decided to rename the National tag team championship, it chose to call it the U.S. title. Unfortunately, there already *was* a U.S. title in Florida, which the NWA also recognizes. Still, despite the potential confusion, the governing body decided to forge ahead with its plans.

“It was an inane move,” insists Keirn. “I mean, I could almost see it if we were talking about two totally dif-

(Continued on page 32)



STEVE KEIRN & STAN LANE

The second title comes as a surprise to Steve Keirn and Stan Lane, who hold a title by the same name in Florida. The NWA has decided to recognize both titles, but The Fabulous Ones have something else in mind!

KOLOFF & KHRUSHCHEV

(Continued from page 28)



For fans all over America, it was a dark day when the Russians won the U.S. (World Championship) tag team belts. It was an especially bad day for Robert Gibson, who is caught in an abdominal stretch applied by Ivan Koloff (above). In the tournament final, Krusher Khrushchev tries to twist off Dutch Mantel's neck (below).



the Russians invaded the American mats and walked away with two of our most prized possessions.

Nikita Koloff defeated Wahoo McDaniel in the U.S. championship-National championship unification match.

Ivan Koloff and Krusher Khrushchev won the tournament for the U.S. tag team belts.

The Russians are coming! The Russians are coming!

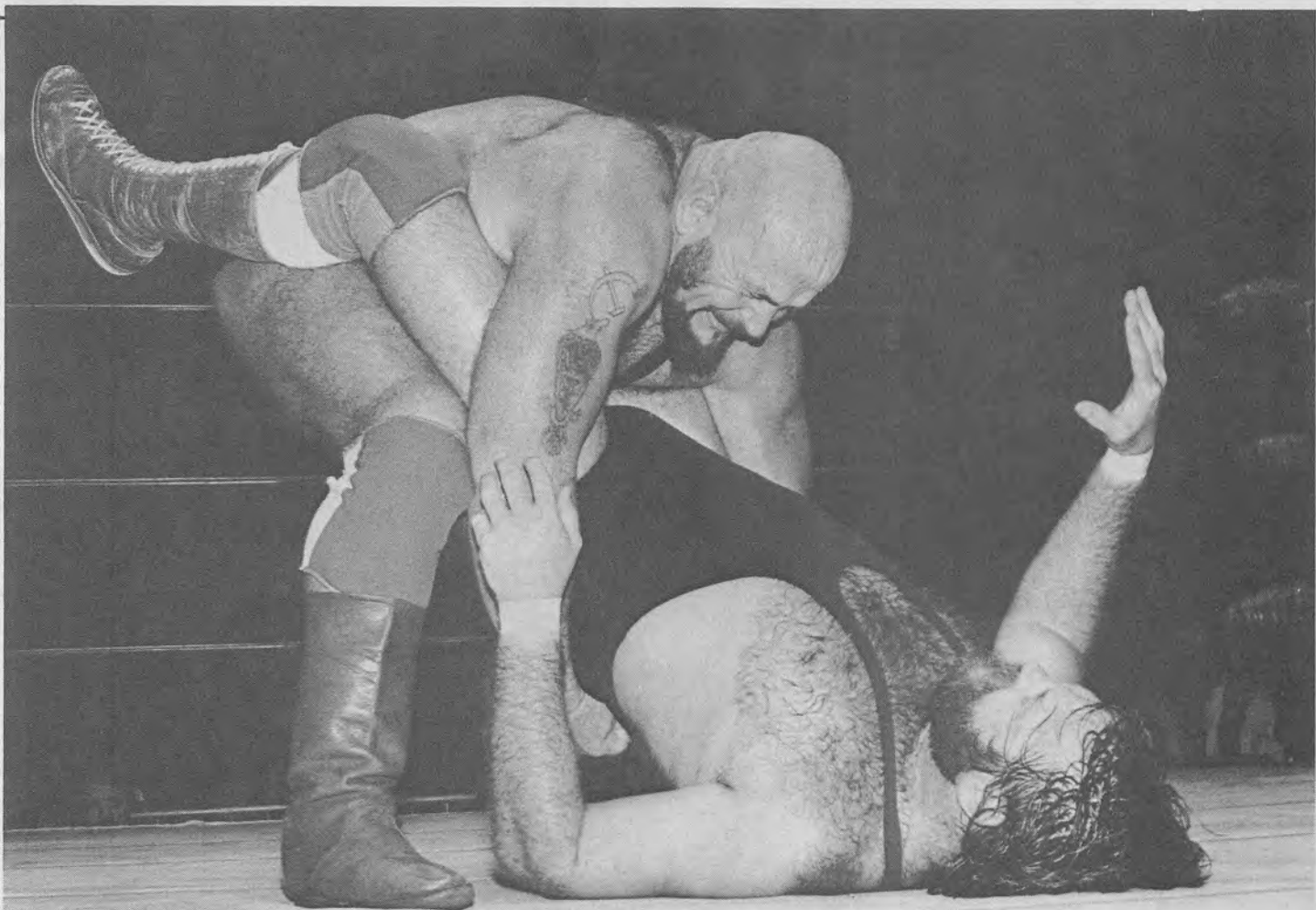
The Russians came. And they conquered.

The opening battle: Koloff and Khrushchev easily dispose of Tim Horner and Nelson Royal. The most horrible defeat: The Russians beat Dusty Rhodes and Magnum T.A., two of the most loyal Americans in the sport, by disqualification. And finally, the United States' Waterloo: The Kansas Jayhawks succumb to the Russian assault and Koloff and Khrushchev walk away with the belts.

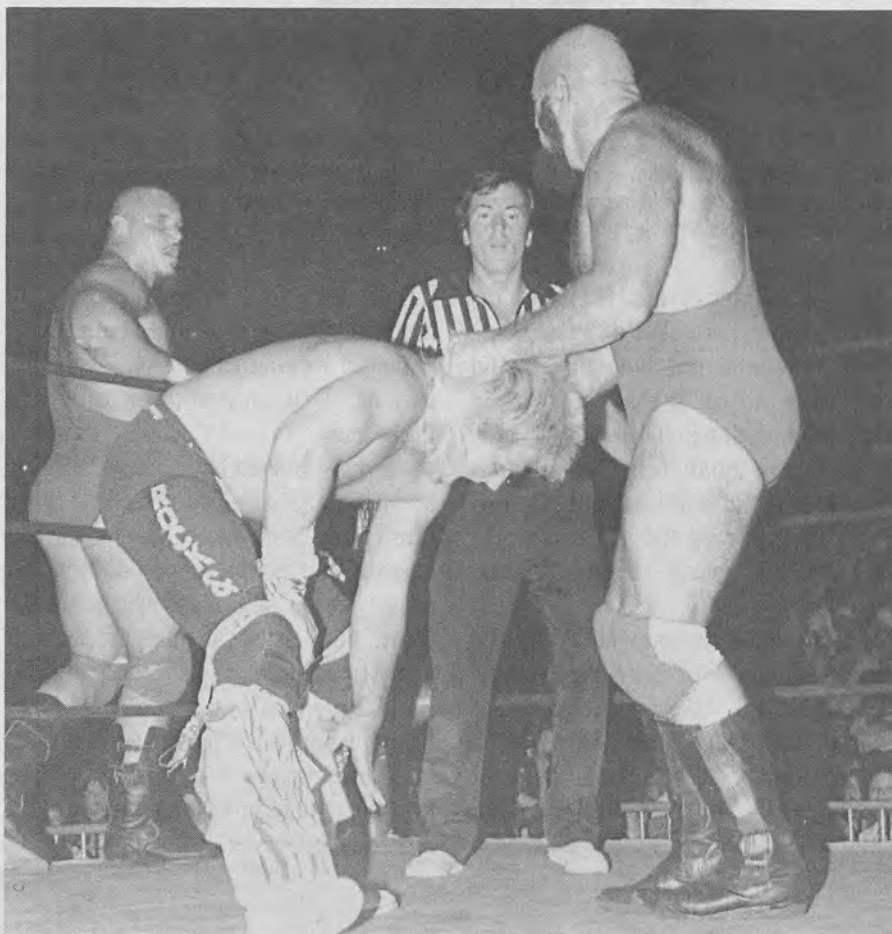
"This is great night for Soviet Union," says Ivan Koloff in the dressing room. "I have already notified officials in the Kremlin and they are most delighted with our accomplishments. They are planning many celebrations. This is most great night. As for you Americans, I don't know..." His voice trailed off and a smile came to Koloff's face. The Russian was pleased.

But Judd Ray Scott, American, was left shell shocked. What's next? For months—make that *years*—the Russians have bragged about their superiority over American wrestlers, but everyone just considered it to be typical Soviet propaganda. Now the proof is there in the form of three belts.

Two of those are the U.S. tag team belts, which shouldn't be confused (but, on many occasions, probably will be) with the U.S. tag team title currently held in Florida by The Fabulous Ones. The NWA's version of the U.S. tag team title was formerly known as the National tag team championship, but, according to President Bob



Mantel just barely lifts his shoulder off the mat as Koloff goes for the pin (above). An old foe of the Russians, Rick Morton, is at Koloff's mercy (below). For how long will the Koloffs and Khrushchev dominate the World Championship wrestling scene?



Geigel, "it was felt that the National belts weren't given the respect they deserved. We're hoping that this cosmetic change helps the fans realize that they are in fact on a par with the U.S. singles championship."

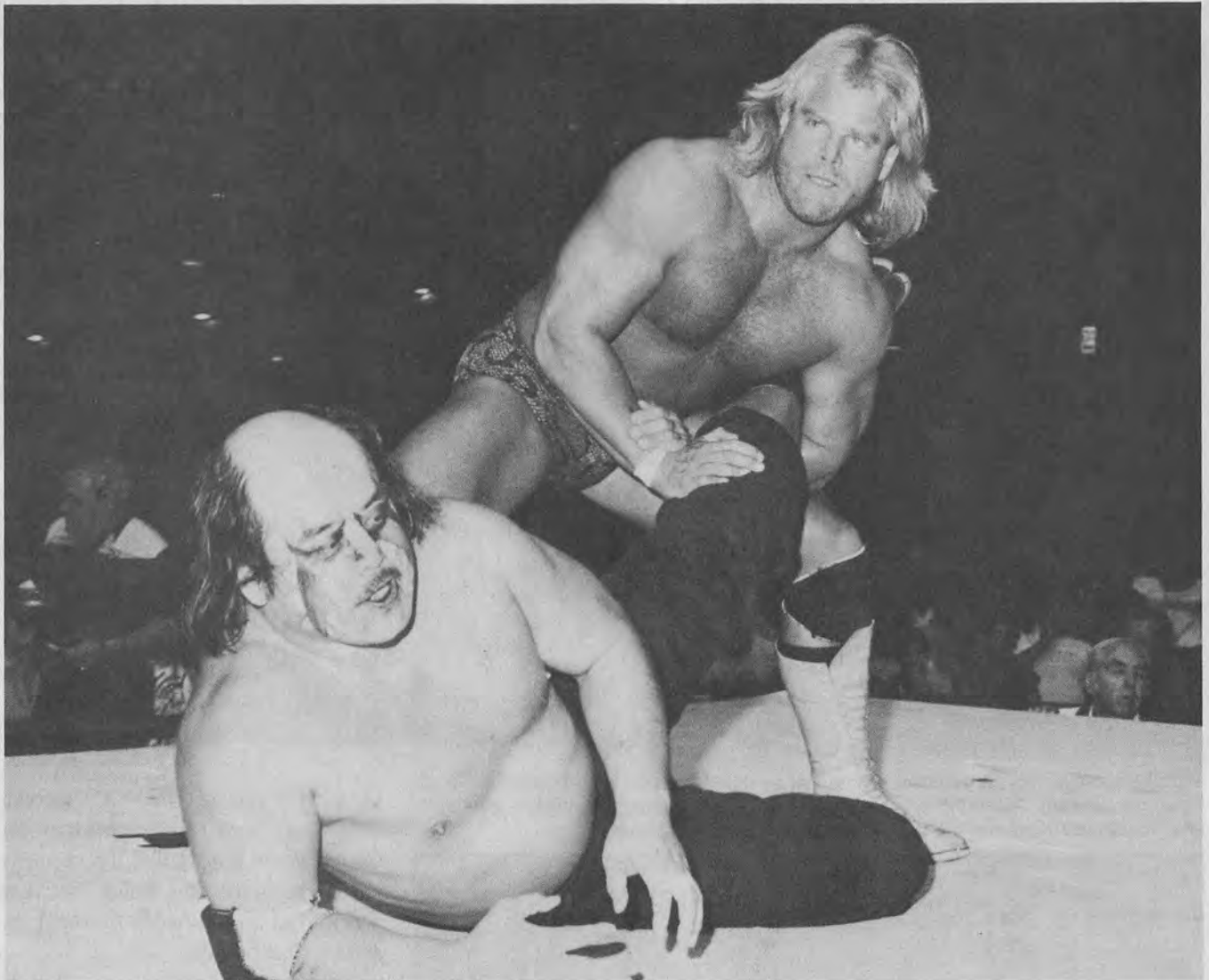
Or, to put it another way, all Russian titles are created equally. The U.S. titles have been the goal of the Soviet wrestlers for months. It has been reported here in the past that Nikita Koloff was actually ordered by the Kremlin to win the U.S. singles title. And although Ivan Koloff and Khrushchev did not receive the same backing (probably because Khrushchev is merely an American who has embraced Soviet values), they knew their mission.

"This is final proof I need that Russians are superior to Americans in every way," says Khrushchev. "We went through the tournament with no problem at all. I figured that the American wrestlers would at least put up some resistance, but they were unable to

(Continued on page 62)

KEIRN & LANE

(Continued from page 29)



Stan Lane, holder of one-half of the U.S. (Florida) tag team championship, has a leg up on Kendo Nagasaki. Lane and Steve Keirn are in a quandary because the NWA now recognizes another version of the U.S. belts, held by Ivan Koloff and Krusher Khrushchev. Nevertheless, The Fabulous Ones are convinced they're a better team than the Russians.

ferent federations, but Florida is the NWA and World Championship is the NWA. All this does is confuse everybody. I mean, which one is which, that's what everybody is gonna be saying. This really bothers us. We worked hard to win this title, and now they're practically taking it away from us."

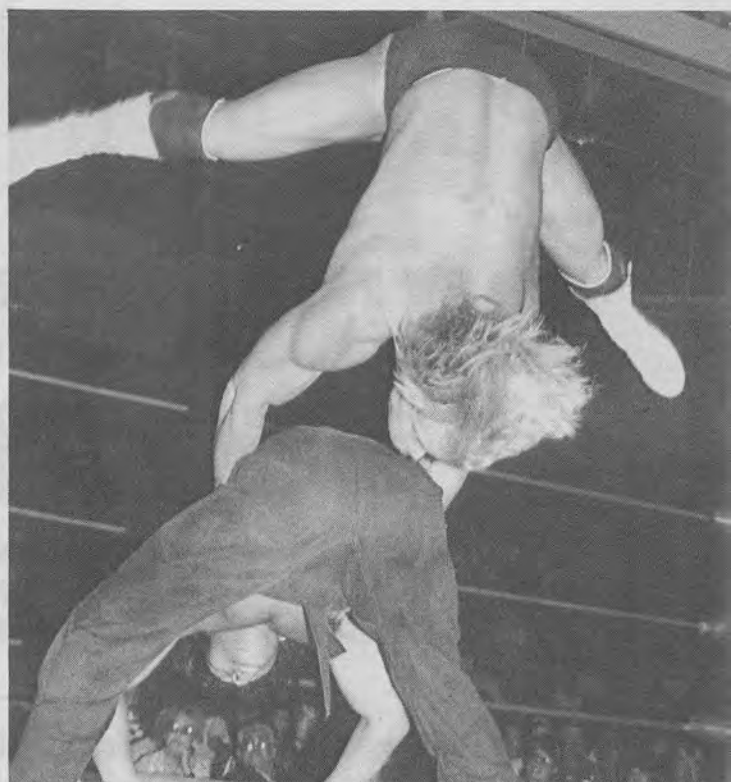
Not exactly, but it doesn't take a genius to realize which version of the title is going to receive more publicity. Koloff and Khrushchev will defend their U.S. title all over the country. Keirn and Lane will mainly be restricted to Florida. Before long, the Russians' title will be the better known of the two.

"Exactly," agrees Lane. "That's the whole unfair part. We'd wrap those Russians around our little fingers and send them scurrying back to Siberia where they belong. There's very little doubt in my mind that The Fabulous Ones are by far the better of the two teams. But the way the NWA is working, it's not going to appear that way."

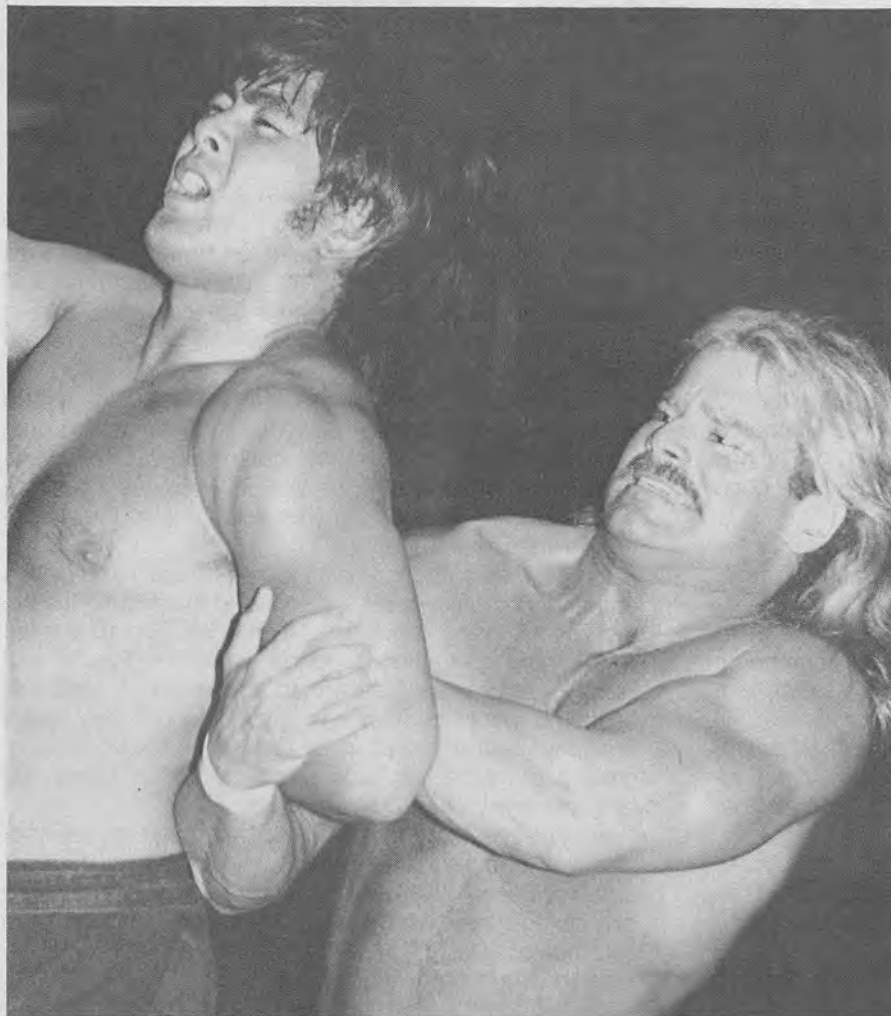
This situation has only added to The Fabulous Ones' worries. Since winning the title in July, they've received stiff threats from The Shepherders, The Shock Troops (Ed "The Bull" Gantner and Kareem Muhammad), and The Ninja and Kendo Nagasaki. Observers

throughout the Florida area are shocked that Keirn and Lane have managed to hold off the onslaught for so long. That, in itself, is a tribute to these men.

"Simply incredible," says popular television analyst Gordon Solie. "Steve Keirn and Stan Lane have displayed courage and perseverance unlike any I have seen in my many years in the sport, both as a fan and a television analyst. They have stepped forth and held steady at a time when some other teams would have folded up the tents and gone running for help in any way possible, whatever that way might be. I am truly impressed."



The Fabulous Ones put one of their toughest opponents, The Ninja, through the wringer. Keirn grabs him in a headlock (above left), while Lane executes the sunset flip (above right) and locks him in an armbar (below). The Fabs' tenacity in defending their titles has surprised many Florida wrestling observers.



Now, to protect their honor and the honor of the Florida U.S. tag team belts, The Fabulous Ones might have to challenge Koloff and Khrushchev. This is the only way that they can restore the importance of the titles they value so highly.

"We've thought about that," admits Keirn, "but I hope that's not what it comes down to. We'd much prefer to keep our minds focused on the task at hand, and that's defending the titles we currently hold. If we have to, though, we'll do it. If we think they're moving in on our turf, we'll take them on. This is a fair warning: Koloff and Khrushchev better not start mouthing off. They'd better not start putting down our country!"

We told you, Judd Ray Scott. The Fabulous Ones are not going to sit around and disappoint their fans. But the challenge is fierce. Ivan Koloff is considered to be one of the greatest wrestlers of all time, and certainly the best ever from the Soviet Union. Krusher Khrushchev doesn't quite match up to The Russian Bear, but he's an improved wrestler when Koloff is by his side. Neither are known for keeping quiet.

For example: "There is only one
(Continued on page 64)

SPECIAL SECTION

RATING THE TOP 50 STARS IN THE WWF!

The WWF roster is bulging with talented wrestlers, and this special section ranks the federation's top 50 stars. How do they rate when compared with one another? Where do your favorites stand on such a list? You'll find the answers to these questions—and more—right here!

FOR A WHILE, it was a normal editorial meeting. A short while. Then the editors began to discuss what material to put in this issue's "Ratings Analysis." Associate Editor Craig Peters favored using more of the fans' letters containing odd and unusual ratings categories. Assistant Editor Dave Rosenbaum agreed, but Senior Editor Bill Apter wanted to present ratings for the Pacific Northwest and Polynesian Pacific areas.

Then Managing Editor Stu Saks spoke up.

"You know what we haven't had in a long time?" Saks asked rhetorically. "Top 20 ratings. We've printed 11 through 20 tag team and singles ratings in 'Ratings Analysis' in the past, and I think that it would be a good idea this month."

"You know," Peters added, "with all the talent in the WWF, we could probably do a *Top 50* ratings!"

Saks' eyes sparkled. "Great idea!"

Everyone else groaned.

"No, really," Saks enthused. "We'll put together a *Top 50* ratings for the WWF, and use it instead of a photo section in the magazine."

Everyone groaned again, mainly at the prospect of spending the hours upon hours necessary to put together such a list and write the blurbs of analysis that must accompany each name.

And it did take hours. Many hours. But when those hours were over, a consensus had been reached on the 50 best grapplers in the WWF, and capsule analyses of their styles had been written.

What is the difference between these ratings and the

WWF Top 10 on our ratings pages? And what were the criteria for these ratings?

"We concerned ourselves with a few major factors," noted Editor-in-Chief Peter King. "Wrestling skills, won-lost record, ability to overwhelm an opponent, they all counted for something. Indeed, in a way, strength and power counted as much as pure wrestling skill, and in some cases maybe even more. And won-lost record was important as well."

"For example, Hulk Hogan, not a particularly skilled wrestler but an extremely powerful and intimidating one, was rated number one—how could you rate him anything *but* number one in the WWF?—but Les Thornton, a superb scientific grappler who seldom wins his matches, finished number 42."

"There was a lot more latitude for editorial interpretation and an individual wrestler's potential in the Top 50 than in the Top 10," King concluded. "The WWF Top 10 is more a list of top contenders to a title, while our Top 50 is a listing based more on style than contention. A good rule of thumb would be that any wrestler could fairly easily beat any wrestler ranked lower than he is, but would have great difficulty beating someone rated higher. I think the fans will enjoy this section a great deal."

In any event, we're sure that these ratings will provide you and your friends with a forum for discussion, argument, and just plain fun. And when you're done examining them, we'd love to hear your reactions and comments.

In the meantime—enjoy!

1

HULK HOGAN

Has held the WWF World heavyweight title since defeating The Iron Sheik on January 23, 1984, in New York's Madison Square Garden ... Incredibly strong and immensely popular ... Though limited in his maneuvers, is very effective with the clothesline, legdrop, and elbowsmash ... Has turned back all challengers to his title ... Has bodyslammed John Studd and King Kong Bundy ... When at a disadvantage, seems to draw extra energy from the cheers of his fans.

2

RANDY SAVAGE

Has held the WWF Intercontinental title since defeating Tito Santana for the belt on February 9, 1986, in Boston ... Superb leg strength and upper-body power ... One of the few WWF stars who can match Hogan for strength ... His axehandle and flying elbowsmash are formidable finishing maneuvers ... Good technical knowledge of the sport, though often prefers to brawl ... If not bogged down by I-C title defenses, could be truly capable of unseating Hogan.

3

PAUL ORNDORFF

Currently viewed as the biggest threat to Hogan's title ... Another incredibly powerful man ... A better technical wrestler than Hogan ... Often loses his composure during a match due to the fans' taunts or falling to a disadvantage ... An excellent weapon in the piledriver ... Toughness in the ring can be traced back to his collegiate and pro football experience.

4

RODDY PIPER

May be one of the very best brawlers in the entire sport ... Aided in the ring by amateur boxing training ... Possesses incredible killer instinct ... Will absorb frightening amounts of punishment before taking a backward step ... Attacks by his opponent only seem to make him angrier and more determined ... Gave Hogan some nervous moments during several WWF World title matches.

5

RICK STEAMBOAT

One of the finest scientific wrestlers in the sport ... Possesses a strong martial arts background that he blends effectively with his pure wrestling science ... A magnificent flying bodypress ... Excellent speed and agility ... Seems to be held back slightly by a lack of killer instinct ... Able to devise on-the-spot strategies during a lengthy match ... Superb stamina.



Hulk Hogan vs. King Kong Bundy



Paul Orndorff vs. Tonga Kid

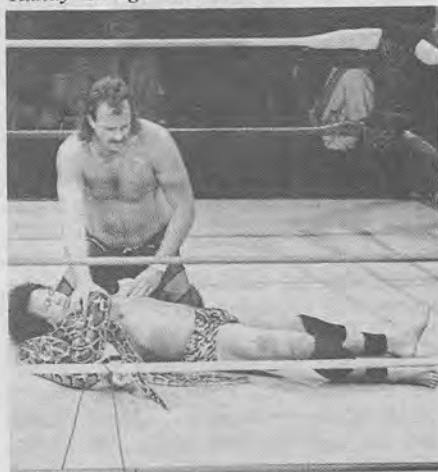
6

DYNAMITE KID

Has held the WWF World tag team title with Davey Boy Smith since defeating Greg Valentine and Brutus Beefcake on April 7, 1986 ... Perhaps the best snap-suplex in the sport ... Incredible ring speed ... Relatively light in weight when matched against opponents like Valentine or Nikolai Volkoff ... Superlative teamwork ... Peerless agility ... Nagging knee and shoulder injuries have slowed his aerial attack considerably of late.



Randy Savage vs. Rick Steamboat



Jake Roberts vs. Siva Afi

7

JAKE ROBERTS

Has been the center of controversy over the past year because of the large boa constrictor he brings into the ring ... Currently feuding with Rick Steamboat and shocked a nationwide television audience when he wrapped the snake around Steamboat's prone body ... His DDT is considered one of the most devastating finishing maneuvers in the sport ... Strong, tall, and lanky, Roberts' build allows him to quickly ensnare his opponents in a wide variety of holds.



Greg Valentine vs. Jim Brunzell

8

DAVEY BOY SMITH

One half of the WWF World tag team champions The British Bulldogs ... An outstanding technical wrestler, Smith can combine power with his acrobatic skills ... Once feuded with his tag team partner Dynamite Kid ... Considered too small by many, but thus far size has not hindered him ... Extremely dangerous from the top rope, his aerial moves are superb ... Many experts feel he could become one of the all-time greats in history.

9

MAGNIFICENT MURACO

One of the most powerful men in wrestling and can win matches on strength alone ... A two-time WWF Intercontinental champion ... Very agile despite his size, he knows his way around the ring ... One of the most vicious rulebreakers in the sport ... Rough, tough, and willing to mix it up, Muraco rarely backs down ... Has let his physique slide over the past years and could lose a few pounds ... Bad attitude.



Magnificent Muraco vs. Rick Steamboat



Tito Santana vs. Randy Savage

10

BUTCH REED

A newcomer to the WWF ... Was wrestling in the Central States area but made a deal with former manager Slick and has made an immediate impact since his arrival ... Works out daily to maintain his outstanding physique ... One of the strongest men in wrestling ... Former North American champion ... A former college football star and amateur wrestler ... Bounces back and forth between being a rulebreaker and fan favorite ... Extremely arrogant.

11

TITO SANTANA

A two-time former WWF Intercontinental champion ... Lost the title to current champ Randy Savage on February 9, 1986, when "The Macho Man" hit him squarely in the face with a foreign object ... Played pro football for three years ... Won the WWF tag team title with Ivan Putski in 1979 ... Possesses blinding quickness and speed and can end a match in an instant ... Continues to expand his scientific repertoire ... Still hasn't recovered completely from knee injury suffered in 1984.

12

GREG VALENTINE

Won the WWF World tag team title with partner Brutus Beefcake on August 24, 1985, before losing the title to The British Bulldogs at WrestleMania 2 ... Former WWF Intercontinental champion and NWA U.S. champion ... A hard-nosed, hard-working wrestler ... As good a technical wrestler as he is a brawler ... Uses his vast experience to outsmart his opponent ... Figure-four leglock is one of the sport's most effective finishing moves ... "The Hammer" is a three-time "Most Hated Wrestler of the Year."

13

ANDRE THE GIANT

A legend of the sport ... The 7'5", 497-pound superstar is one of the most popular wrestlers in the United States ... Hated by fans in Japan where he is managed by Wakamatsu ... Now wrestling as The Giant Machine ... Has never been pinned yet has never held a major title ... Size severely limits his ring mobility ... Can overpower any man in the sport ... Lacks scientific skills but is extremely imposing and intimidating ... Has put on considerable weight in the past five years.

14

HARLEY RACE

A record seven-time former NWA World champion ... Now the self-proclaimed "King of the Ring," mainly due to wins in a Foxboro, Massachusetts, tournament of the same name, and The Sam Muchnick Tournament in St. Louis ... 26 years of experience have made "Handsome Harley" an outstanding ring tactician ... Commands tremendous respect from his rulebreaking peers ... Getting older, slower, and heavier, but has managed to remain competitive.

15

RICK MARTEL

A former AWA World champion and two-time WWF World tag team champion with Tony Garea ... Vast array of finishing maneuvers ... The flying vault, flying bodypress, and flying headscissors are among his many aerial moves ... In superb physical condition and dedicated to training ... Young but experienced ... Follows the straight and narrow, even when roughing it up might be necessary ... Recently returned to the WWF after wrestling in Canada.

16

DICK SLATER

Best known for his twin finishing moves, the piledriver and the brainbuster ... Has also favored a three-move finishing sequence of the elbowsmash/kneedrop, spinning toehold, and figure-four leglock ... Has the capabilities, but needs the opportunities in the WWF against top opponents ... A fierce, rugged wrestler who is at his best when riled up ... Has wrestled in numerous regions throughout the United States and Japan ... Has held numerous titles across the country ... Kneedrop has caused significant damage to his knees.

17

JUNKYARD DOG

One of the most popular wrestlers in the WWF and gears his style toward the fans ... Former North American champion ... Played football for the Green Bay Packers ... Uses the "big thump" powerslam as his finishing maneuver; opponents seldom get up from it ... A big man, but has recently put on something of a belly ... Very rugged and able to wear down an opponent ... Teams with George "The Animal" Steele on occasion and wrestles top competition in singles matches.

18

JOHN STUDD

At 6'10" and 364 pounds, is one of the largest men in wrestling ... Nearly impossible to overpower and best known for his bodyslam challenges ... Still, he has been slammed numerous times, most recently by Hulk Machine (Hulk Hogan) ... Awesome individual who has had numerous title chances ... Fell short in a series of matches against Hulk Hogan and Andre the Giant ... Lack of true killer instinct may be responsible for his inability to defeat Hogan ... Might be past his prime.

19

ADRIAN ADONIS

Has moved into the WWF spotlight since coming out of the closet in early 1986 ...



Dick Slater vs. Jake Roberts



Junkyard Dog vs. Bob Orton



King Kong Bundy vs. Andre the Giant

Feuded with Roddy Piper over "The Flower Shop" and "Piper's Pit," but has mysteriously dropped out of sight ... Held the AWA World tag title with Jesse Ventura in 1981, and the WWF tag title in 1984-85 with Dick Murdoch ... Appearance is deceiving; Adonis is a tough wrestler and surprisingly agile ... Smart and experienced ... Has had weight problems and should drop 60-70 pounds ... Lacks stamina ... An egomaniac.

20

IRON SHEIK

Was responsible for ending one era and ushering in another ... Stopped Bob Backlund's WWF title reign after nearly six years on December 26, 1983, and lost the belt to Hogan almost one month later ... Wrestled in the 1968 Olympics, representing his native Iran ... One of the strongest men in

wrestling ... Has incredible upper body strength and amazingly powerful arms ... Became the most hated man in wrestling as a result of the Iranian hostage crisis ... An outstanding pure wrestler.

21

KING KONG BUNDY

Certainly one of the most unusual looking men in wrestling with his roundish build and bald head ... Despite his size (6'2", 446 pounds), is very fast and hard to take from behind ... Because of his size, extremely difficult to pin or take off his feet ... Relies on his size, prefers brawling and lacks basic ring skills ... Can be outlasted by a smaller scientific wrestler ... Wrestles each bout in virtually the same way ... Met Hulk Hogan on the Los Angeles-based main event at WrestleMania 2.



Mike Rotundo vs. Iron Sheik



Nikolai Volkoff vs. Mike Rotundo



Tonga Kid vs. Kamala



Brett Hart vs. Jim Brunzell

22

BILLY JACK HAYNES

Came to the WWF from Portland, Oregon, where he was Pacific Northwest champion ... Part of the new breed of wrestlers, Haynes is a fine physical specimen ... Uses his unusual strength to turn the full-nelson into an effective finishing maneuver ... Major flaw is that he doesn't stay in one area long enough to become established ... A former champion bodybuilder ... Voted 1984's "Most Improved Wrestler" by the readers of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*.

23

BRETT HART

Comes from the famous Hart wrestling family in Canada ... Tag team partner of Jim Neidhart, forming The Hart Foundation ... One of the most underrated men in the sport ... An superb technical wrestler ... Good aerial maneuvers ... A weakness is his arrogance, which causes him to under-rate opponents ... Has held every Canadian singles title and many tag team belts ... Son of Stu Hart, former wrestler and now a promoter.

24

MIKE ROTUNDO

One half of The U.S. Express with Dan Spivey ... Also formed The U.S. Express with Barry Windham and held the WWF World tag team title twice ... Played college

football and wrestled at Syracuse University ... A fine scientific wrestler ... Takes full advantage of his outstanding athletic abilities in the ring ... Despite his skill, seems to be going nowhere fast in the WWF ... Comparatively small size has worked against him.

25

NIKOLAI VOLKOFF

Teams with The Iron Sheik to form one of the most hated tag teams in all of wrestling ... Defeated Mike Rotundo and Dan Spivey for the WWF tag team belts at WrestleMania before losing the title three months later ... An imposing figure at 6'7", 345-pounds ... Tremendously powerful; reportedly can bench press 545-pounds ... Easily out-smarted in the ring and gets by mostly on size ... Managed by Fred Blassie in his first WWF stint in the early '70s.

26

RAYMOND ROUGEAU

Thought by many to be the best tag team partner in all of wrestling ... Easygoing personality makes him an easy partner to get along with, and enables him to place teamwork above ego ... Currently wrestling with his younger brother Jacques ... One of Canada's most famous wrestlers ... Held the Canadian International tag team title and many singles titles ... Superb flying maneuvers, including the dropkick and flying headscissors.

27

TONGA KID

The cousin of Jimmy "Superfly" Snuka and is molded in much the same manner ... In excellent physical shape, but like his cousin is susceptible to weight gain ... High energy ... Enjoys the cheers of the fans; perhaps too much ... Explodes into the ring and is tough to wear down ... Extremely popular ... Fine aerial maneuvers include a great flying bodypress ... Limited scientific skills, however ... Lack of technicals makes him easily outsmarted by a good scientific wrestler.

28

B. BRIAN BLAIR

One half of The Killer Bees with Jim Brunzell ... Defeated Jesse Barr to win the Florida title in early 1985 ... A fine scientific wrestler ... One of the smaller men in the sport, but can get by on his wrestling skills ... Has an outstanding dropkick among his many other acrobatic skills ... Uses his size as an asset to make him more agile in the ring ... Can be overpowered by some of the WWF's behemoths.

29

JACQUES ROUGEAU

Has gained vast popularity in Canada, especially his native Montreal ... Has been called the Bob Gainey of wrestling because of his hard working style ... Might have the

best flying dropkick in the sport ... One of the most exciting wrestlers in the WWF ... Vastly underrated but highly respected by his peers ... With his brother, mainly wrestling against The Hart Foundation, but would like a shot at The British Bulldogs and the WWF tag belts.

30

DINO BRAVO

Perfected the airplane spin and is considered to have the best in wrestling ... Has held the Canadian championship numerous times ... Recently suffered from appendicitis, taking him out of action for some time ... Experience in virtually every region in the U.S. and Canada, and uses this knowledge well ... Wrestles better against a scientific grappler than a pure brawler ... In fine physical condition ... Has never held a singles world championship ... Often disqualified, despite his scientific style ... Is currently a rulebreaker under manager Johnny Valiant.

31

KOKO B. WARE

Extremely popular with the fans ... Known as "The Birdman" because of his penchant for aerial maneuvers ... Carries a parrot to the ring with him ... Possesses a superb dropkick, though is too light to provide the move with enough authority ... Fine ring speed ... Poor defensive capabilities when he is dropped to the mat ... Vulnerable to a strong scientific attack.

32

HILLBILLY JIM

A young, and relatively inexperienced, grappler ... Trained by Hulk Hogan ... Suffered a leg injury at the hands of Brutus Beefcake and Johnny Valiant ... Still has not fully recovered ... Deceptively strong ... Possesses an extremely positive attitude that has made him popular with the fans ... Technical ring skills, however, are severely limited ... Below-average speed.

33

JIM BRUNZELL

Along with B. Brian Blair, comprises the tag team known as The Killer Bees ... Known as "Jumping" Jim Brunzell because of his excellent dropkick capability ... Though he has a good aerial attack, possesses only average ring speed ... Good scientific abilities, but prefers to stick to basics like leg and arm holds ... Questionable stamina when a match lasts longer than 15 or 20 minutes.

34

KAMALA

Known as "The Ugandan Headhunter" ... Intimidates opponents with his size and fear-



Hillbilly Jim vs. John Studd



Jim Brunzell vs. Brutus Beefcake



Bob Orton vs. Dan Spivey

some makeup ... Wrestling skills are virtually nil ... "Big Splash" maneuver is his only finishing move, which wins him most of his matches ... Limited mobility in the ring because of his incredible bulk ... Almost impossible to control ... May never become more than a middle-of-the-card wrestler.

35

JIM NEIDHART

Managed by Jimmy Hart and, along with Brett Hart, forms The Hart Foundation ... More a brawler than a scientific grappler ... Might be at a distinct disadvantage in singles matches where he can't tag off to his partner ... Tends to absorb too much pun-



Kamala vs. Andre the Giant

ishment in his matches ... Good speed ... Easily distracted by the taunts of the fans ... Very cocky and self-confident.

36

BOB ORTON

Has seen limited ring action over the past few months, instead serving as a bodyguard for Adrian Adonis ... Shared the NWA World tag title with Don Kernodle for two months in early 1984 ... Strong amateur background with excellent, though now rarely used, scientific abilities ... Superplex is one of the most devastating moves in the sport ... Needs to spend more time wrestling instead of bodyguarding.

37

HERCULES HERNANDEZ

Has one of the standout physiques in the sport ... Can bench press well over 500 pounds ... Dedicated to his weight training, but perhaps he should concentrate more on wrestling itself ... Another WWF wrestler with the ability to outmuscle and overpower an opponent ... Low scientific ability ... Mainly a kicker and puncher ... Tends to waste energy during matches stomping around the ring and screaming at fans.

38

CPL. KIRCHNER

A veteran of the U.S. Army's famed 82nd Airborne division ... Obviously a courageous patriotic man, but just as obviously he's of below-average strength, power, and agility ... Finishing move is the clothesline, but Kirchner really isn't heavy enough to make it effective ... Also does a variation of the Samoan drop ... Lacks experience against a wide range of opponents ... Acts recklessly and makes numerous tactical mistakes.

39

PEDRO MORALES

Held the WWF World heavyweight title from February 8, 1971, to December 1, 1973, and is a two-time Intercontinental champion ... Engaged in an almost futile bid for Savage's Intercontinental title; Morales is not the wrestler he used to be ... One of the most popular performers in WWF history ... Remains competitive in the ring, but his advancing age and increasing weight are catching up to him ... Boston crab remains his most effective move.

40

SUPERSTAR GRAHAM

Will best be remembered for ending Bruno Sammartino's second WWF title reign in 1977, and then losing the belt 10 months later to Bob Backlund ... Recently returned to the ring after a year-long absence ... Possesses one of the most incredible physiques in the game ... Has awesome arms and can still overpower an opponent ... Despite his vast experience, still lacks basic scientific skills, but is a dedicated athlete.

41

LANNY POFFO

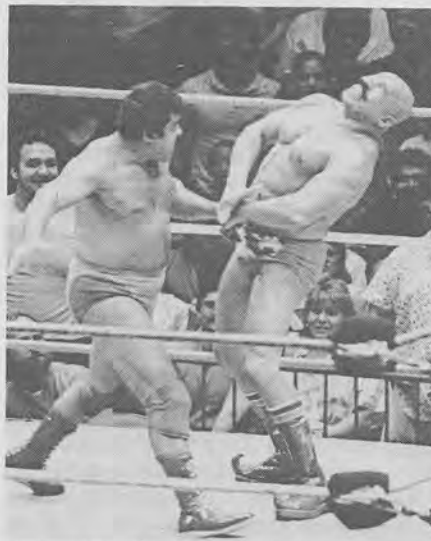
The brother of Intercontinental champion Randy Savage ... Outstanding acrobatic skills account for his nickname "Leaping Lanny" ... Unlike his brother, lacks the size and strength to make it against most of our Top 50, and can be easily overpowered ...



Hercules Hernandez vs. Rick Steamboat



Cpl. Kirchner vs. Nikolai Volkoff



Pedro Morales vs. Iron Sheik



Steve Regal vs. Jim Brunzell

In fine shape, however, and has excellent ring movement ... Recites poetry in the ring, a practice which many hard-nosed fans find offensive and causes opponents to ridicule him.

42

LES THORNTON

An excellent scientific wrestler ... Has long been known as "The Man of 1,000 Holds" ... Is relatively short, however, which puts him at a disadvantage against the sport's tall, muscular, and powerful stars ... A multi-time holder of the NWA junior heavyweight title ... Excellent stamina ... Stocky build ... Good power for his size, but will find himself at a strength disadvantage against most opponents.

43

STEVE REGAL

A former NWA junior heavyweight champion and former AWA World tag team champion (with Jim Garvin) ... Considerable experience, but lacks any sense of personal commitment and drive ... Better in tag team matches than singles competition ... Often distracted during matches by fans ... Good technique, but prefers to ignore the rulebook ... Good ring speed ... Would do best to stick to tag competition.



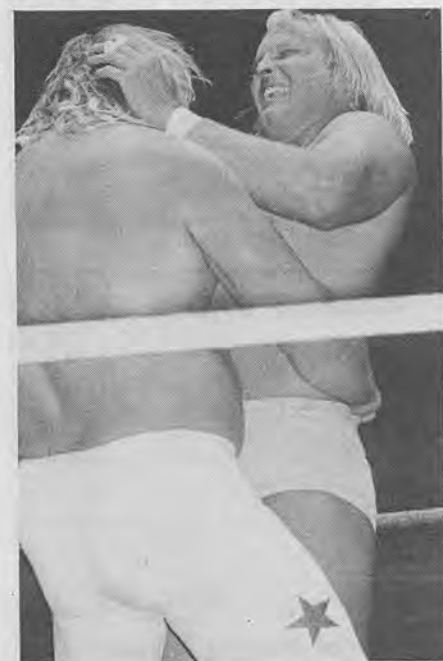
Jimmy Jack Funk vs. Billy Jack Haynes



Brutus Beefcake vs. Dynamite Kid



George Steele vs. Harley Race



Dan Spivey vs. John Studd

44

BRUTUS BEEFCAKE

Tag team partner of Greg Valentine ... Held the WWF tag title for eight months before losing to The British Bulldogs at WrestleMania 2 ... Is widely acknowledged as the weaker half of this pairing ... Has mastered the flying kneesmash, a move which he executes with stunning accuracy ... Maintains a superb physique ... Too much in love with himself ... Extremely awkward and off-balance.

45

KING TONGA

Well-schooled in the martial arts ... Wrestles often in Japan ... Not an outstanding singles wrestler, may prove to excel more in tag team matches with The Tonga Kid ... Has feuded briefly with John Studd ... Rarely competes against WWF wrestlers in our top 20 ... Sub-par aerial moves ... Decent ring speed, and only average power

46

JIMMY JACK FUNK

Is actually Jesse Barr, although the WWF and the since-departed Funk brothers claim that he is their younger brother ... Idolized in Japan as one of the sport's truly outstanding scientific wrestlers ... Has tremendous drive and is always trying to improve himself ... In fine shape for a wrestler; strong yet mobile ... Offsets his ability with a tendency to get recklessly out of hand ... Sometimes takes too long to execute his strategy.

47

DAN SPIVEY

Spends most of his time in tag matches with Mike Rotundo ... Many observers consider Spivey a grappler in the mold of Barry Windham ... Indeed, was trained by Windham ... Tall and lanky, seems uncomfortable with his size ... Limited skills and only average power ... In singles matches seems lost without a partner to tag out to ... Good execution of basic maneuvers like elbowsmashes and legdrops, but desperately needs to expand his repertoire.

48

GEORGE STEELE

Known as "The Animal" ... Virtually a complete lack of any kind of ring style whatsoever ... Chaotic movements during a match serve to confuse opponents ... Only true finishing maneuver is the hammerlock ... His schoolboy crush on Elizabeth has led to a feud with Randy Savage ... If not for Steele's chaotic ring demeanor, Savage and most other wrestlers in the sport could defeat him in a matter of seconds.

49

SIVA AFI

A former Polynesian Pacific heavyweight champion ... Follows in the footsteps of Jimmy Snuka, but lacks Snuka's fearlessness and high-flying acrobatics ... Slower than average speed ... Needs to cultivate his hunger for winning a title ... Too often accepts matches against opponents who are far more skilled than he ... Trained by legendary Polynesian star Peter Maivia.

50

TED ARCIDI

World record holder in the bench press (705.5 pounds) ... May be too muscular, as his build tends to cut down severely on his mobility and agility ... Severe lack of scientific skills ... Needs to learn many of the basics of the sport so that he does not fall into the trap of relying solely on strength ... One of the 10 strongest men now competing. □

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RATINGS ANALYSIS

Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating more than 150 wrestlers in 14 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.

Associate Editor Craig Peters loves "Offbeat Ratings Categories" ... and Assistant Editor Dave Rosenbaum loves "Offbeat Ratings Categories." In fact, all the editors and writers at our family of magazines love "Offbeat Ratings Categories" because ... you readers get to do all the work and we just type your correspondence into the computer!

This concept, which was first introduced in the November 1986 issue of *Sports Review Wrestling*, made its debut in the January 1987 issue of *The Wrestler* and spread to the February 1987 issue of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*, has resulted in a record number of "Ratings Analysis" mail. Our postman hates us! But "Offbeat Ratings Categories" are incredibly popular. Here, they make their *Sports Review Wrestling* debut.

Steven Approbato of Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico, seems to pull for the underdog. He sent us his **10 Most Underrated Wrestlers**: 1—Jerry Lawler; 2—Hacksaw Duggan; 3—Wendell Cooley; 4—Bill Dundee; 5—Austin Idol; 6—Terry Taylor; 7—Brian Adidas; 8—Tyree Pride; 9—Curt Hennig; 10—Buddy Landell.

Get those earplugs on! Lisa Cole of Tampa, Florida, submitted her



Stan Hansen

10 Biggest Mouths In Wrestling: 1—Ric Flair; 2—Larry Zbyszko; 3—Stan Hansen; 4—Jimmy Hart; 5—Ron Bass; 6—Sir Oliver Humperdink; 7—Kareem Muhammad; 8—Percy Pringle; 9—Jim Cornette; 10—Michael Hayes.

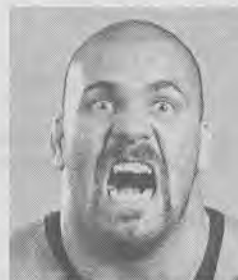
David Reeve of LaHabra, California, sent along a number of lists. First, his **10 Best Looking Belts**: 1—NWA World heavyweight; 2—Mid-Atlantic heavyweight; 3—WWF Intercontinental; 4—U.S. heavyweight; 5—NWA World tag team; 6—

AWA World tag team; 7—WWF World heavyweight; 8—World Class heavyweight; 9—NWA TV title; 10—AWA heavyweight. Next, the **10 Most Dangerous Matches**: 1—Barbed wire; 2—Dog collar chain; 3—Bunkhouse; 4—Bull rope; 5—Indian strap; 6—Scaffold; 7—Steel cage; 8—Texas death; 9—Battle royal; 10—Tornado style. And, finally, the **10 Best Big Men in Wrestling**: 1—Andre the Giant; 2—King Kong Bundy; 3—One Man Gang; 4—John Studd; 5—Bruiser Brody; 6—Hulk Hogan; 7—Big Bubba; 8—Uncle Elmer; 9—Sgt. Slaughter; 10—Road Warrior Animal.

Many wrestlers are best identified by their hair. Clinton S. Freeman of New York City compiled wrestling's **10 Best Haircuts**: 1—Ric Flair; 2—Gordon Solie (Hair by Lucy's Fancy, Tampa); 3—Jimmy Garvin; 4—Ricky "Pineapple Top" Morton; 5—Bob Backlund (brush cut circa 1983); 6—Jim Cornette (page boy); 7—Nick Bockwinkel (matinee idol); 8—Dusty Rhodes (classic blond perm-curl); 9—Terry Taylor (wash and wear); 10—Bill Dundee (Elvis D.A.).

Because of training conditions, it's often difficult to list the best wrestlers of all-time. But if you restrict the discussion to a certain period, it gets a little easier and more meaningful. Gregory L. Lane of Bridgeton, New Jersey, ranked the **10 Greatest Wrestlers From 1968-1986**: 1—Bob Backlund; 2—Mil Mascaras; 3—Jimmy Snuka; 4—Buddy Rogers; 5—Jerry Blackwell; 6—Victor Rivera; 7—Pedro Morales; 8—Steve Williams; 9—Lex Lugar; 10—Rick Martel.

And from best to worst. Michael Harris of Albany, Georgia, gives us what he calls the **10 Sorriest Wrestlers**, which you'll notice is top-heavy in World Championship wrestlers: 1—Rocky King (World Championship); 2—George South (World Championship); 3—The Italian Stallion (World Championship); 4—Jim Backlund (Florida); 5—The Glassman (UWF); 6—Randy Mulkey (World Championship); 7—Bill Mulkey (World Championship); 8—Jim Jeffers (last seen in World Championship); 9—Mack Jeffers (last seen in World Championship); 10—The Golden Terror (World Championship).



Nikita Koloff

A ball of confusion ... but not anymore, thanks to the NWA's wise decision to merge the United States championship and the National championship. Although the U.S. champion was always officially ranked as the number one contender to the NWA World title, there was always argument over whether the National champion deserved that spot. As a result of the title-unification match between U.S. champion Nikita Koloff and National champion Wahoo McDaniel,

there's now only one belt: the U.S. title, held by "The Russian Nightmare." This will add needed prestige to the belt and will help ease the crowding on the NWA championship scene. In our ratings, the U.S. will still be recognized as number one in the World Championship area.

On the other hand, the NWA complicated an uncomplicated situation when it changed the name of its National tag team title to the U.S. championship (see page 28). Of course, Florida also has a U.S. championship. The World Championship area's version of the title covers a much larger area, but the Florida belt has history on its side. We'll continue to recognize both until this situation is resolved.

We don't wanna work! So keep that "Offbeat Ratings Category" mail coming in and save Craig, Dave, Stu, Eddie, Bill, and Peter all the work that goes into compiling a "Ratings Analysis" column. We'd also like to know your opinion on the confusing U.S. tag team title situation. Send all your cards and letters to: "Ratings Analysis" c/o *Sports Review Wrestling*; Box 48; Rockville Centre, NY 11571. □

OFF WRESTLIN

Top 10 and Tag Team ratings, as well as top 10 Women ratings, are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of each wrestler or team. These ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board.



Kevin Von Erich

TOP 10

- 1—**RIC FLAIR**
NWA World champion
243, Minneapolis, MN
- 2—**HULK HOGAN**
WWF World champion
302, Venice Beach, CA
- 3—**NIKITA KOLOFF**
U.S. heavyweight champion
275, Moscow, Russia
- 4—**TERRY GORDY**
UWF heavyweight champion
289, Chattanooga, TN
- 5—**NICK BOCKWINKEL**
AWA World champion
245, Beverly Hills, CA
- 6—**RANDY SAVAGE**
WWF Intercontinental champion
245, Sarasota, FL
- 7—**PAUL ORNDORFF**
No. 1 contender: WWF title
253, Brandon, FL
- 8—**LEX LUGAR**
Southern champion
280, Chicago, IL
- 9—**KEVIN VON ERICH**
World Class champion
239, Denton, TX
- 10—**DUSTY RHODES**
No. 1 contender: NWA title
245, Chesapeake, VA

TAG TEAMS

- 1—**THE ROAD WARRIORS**
No. 2 contenders to NWA tag team title
Combined weight: 567 pounds
- 2—**THE ROCK 'N' ROLL EXPRESS**
NWA World tag team champions
Combined weight: 483 pounds
- 3—**THE BRITISH BULLDOGS**
WWF World tag team champions
Combined weight: 461 pounds
- 4—**THE FANTASTICS**
UWF tag team champions
Combined weight: 462 pounds
- 5—**OLE & ARN ANDERSON**
No. 1 contenders to NWA tag team title
Combined weight: 505 pounds
- 6—**PLAYBOY BUDDY ROSE & DOUG SOMERS**
AWA World tag team champions
Combined weight: 515 pounds
- 7—**THE MIDNIGHT ROCKERS**
No. 1 contenders to AWA tag team title
Combined weight: 461 pounds
- 8—**THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS**
No. 2 contenders to NWA tag team title
Combined weight: 472 pounds
- 9—**BUZZ SAWYER & MATT BORNE**
World Class tag team champions
Combined weight: 480 pounds
- 10—**IVAN KOLOFF & KRUSHER KHRUSHCHEV**
U.S. (World Championship) tag team champions
Combined weight: 533 pounds

NWA, AWA, and WWF ratings, in addition to regional ratings from around the country, are based on the official current positions of challengers to the top title in each category. (Certain titleholders receive an automatic spot in the ratings.)

NWA

World Champion:
RIC FLAIR

243, Minneapolis, MN

- 1—**NIKITA KOLOFF**
275, Moscow, Russia
- 2—**DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX
- 3—**TULLY BLANCHARD**
235, San Antonio, TX
- 4—**LEX LUGAR**
280, Chicago, IL
- 5—**RONNIE GARVIN**
231, Montreal, Quebec
- 6—**BARRY WINDHAM**
236, Sweetwater, TX
- 7—**ARN ANDERSON**
249, Minneapolis, MN
- 8—**DICK MURDOCH**
270, Waxahachie, TX
- 9—**WENDELL COOLEY**
220, Milton, FL
- 10—**SAM HOUSTON**
222, Waco, TX

AWA

World Champion:
NICK BOCKWINKEL

245, Beverly Hills, CA

- 1—**LARRY ZBYSZKO**
248, Pittsburgh, PA
- 2—**SCOTT HALL**
290, Minneapolis, MN
- 3—**COL. DeBEERS**
265, Cape Town, South Africa
- 4—**JIMMY SNUKA**
251, Fiji Islands
- 5—**SILO SAM**
461, Baltimore, MD
- 6—**CURT HENNIG**
235, Minneapolis, MN
- 7—**BORIS ZUKHOV**
254, Leningrad, Russia
- 8—**JOHNNY RICH**
238, Hendersonville, TN
- 9—**BRAD RHEINGANS**
284, Albuquerque, NM
- 10—**KEN TIMBS**
235, Atlanta, GA

WWF

World Champion:
HULK HOGAN

302, Venice Beach, CA

- 1—**RANDY SAVAGE**
245, Sarasota, FL
- 2—**PAUL ORNDORFF**
253, Brandon, FL
- 3—**RODDY PIPER**
231, Glasgow, Scotland
- 4—**RICK STEAMBOAT**
238, Honolulu, HI
- 5—**JAKE ROBERTS**
246, Stone Mountain, GA
- 6—**JOHN STUDD**
364, Los Angeles, CA
- 7—**DICK SLATER**
235, Tampa, FL
- 8—**HARLEY RACE**
253, Kansas City, MO
- 9—**MAGNIFICENT MURACO**
274, Sunset Beach, HI
- 10—**BILLY JACK HAYNES**
245, Portland, OR

WOMEN

1—**SHERRI MARTEL**

AWA Women's champion
132, New Orleans, LA

- 2—**MISTY BLUE SIMMES**
U.S. & IWF Women's champion
118, Glens Falls, NY
- 3—**WENDI RICHTER**
WWC Women's champion
142, Dallas, TX
- 4—**FABULOUS MOOLAH**
WWF Women's champion
138, Columbia, SC
- 5—**LINDA DALLAS**
No. 1 contender: U.S. & IWF title
109, Dallas, TX
- 6—**VELVET McINTYRE**
No. 1 contender: WWF title
135, Dublin, Ireland
- 7—**LELANI KAI**
All Pacific Women's champion
127, Honolulu, HI
- 8—**CANDI DIVINE**
No. 1 contender: AWA title
127, Nashville, TN
- 9—**COMRADE ORCA**
No. 2 contender: U.S. & IWF title
217, Moscow, Russia
- 10—**DEBBIE COMBS**
No. 2 contender: AWA title
138, Ft. Campbell, KY

CIAL G RATINGS

WORLD CHAMP.

- 1—**NIKITA KOLOFF**
275, Moscow, Russia
- 2—**TULLY BLANCHARD**
235, San Antonio, TX
- 3—**ARN ANDERSON**
249, Minneapolis, MN
- 4—**DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX
- 5—**DICK MURDOCH**
270, Waxahachie, TX
- 6—**RONNIE GARVIN**
231, Montreal, Quebec
- 7—**RICK RUDE**
246, Robbinsdale, MN
- 8—**KRUSHER KHRUSHCHEV**
303, Thief river Falls, MN
- 9—**BRAD ARMSTRONG**
226, Marietta, GA
- 10—**OLE ANDERSON**
256, Minneapolis, MN

UWF

- 1—**TERRY GORDY**
289, Chattanooga, TN
- 2—**TERRY TAYLOR**
225, Vero Beach, FL
- 3—**HACKSAW DUGGAN**
280, Glens Falls, NY
- 4—**BUDDY ROBERTS**
247, Del City, OK
- 5—**STEVE WILLIAMS**
265, Tulsa, OK
- 6—**TED DiBIASE**
247, Omaha, NB
- 7—**CHRIS ADAMS**
230, Stratford, England
- 8—**RICK STEINER**
265, Detroit, MI
- 9—**STING**
270, parts unknown
- 10—**ONE MAN GANG**
468, Chicago, IL

WORLD CLASS

- 1—**KEVIN VON ERICH**
239, Denton, TX
- 2—**BUZZ SAWYER**
240, St. Petersburg, FL
- 3—**LANCE VON ERICH**
260, Arlington, TX
- 4—**STEVE SIMPSON**
230, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 5—**BLACK BART**
261, Pampa, TX
- 6—**BRUISER BRODY**
284, Albuquerque, NM
- 7—**ABDULLAH THE BUTCHER**
360, Sudan
- 8—**DINGO WARRIOR**
280, Queens, NY
- 9—**CRUSHER YURKOV**
390, Mt. Laurel, NJ
- 10—**BRIAN ADIDAS**
238, Denton, TX

FLORIDA

- 1—**LEX LUGAR**
280, Chicago, IL
- 2—**RON BASS**
265, Pampa, TX
- 3—**BARRY WINDHAM**
236, Sweetwater, TX
- 4—**KENDALL WINDHAM**
220, Sweetwater, TX
- 5—**KAREEM MUHAMMAD**
297, Africa
- 6—**ED GANTNER**
269, Tampa, FL
- 7—**THE WHITE NINJA**
231, Japan
- 8—**KENDO NAGASAKI**
248, Singapore
- 9—**THE FALCON**
250, parts unknown
- 10—**TYREE PRIDE**
231, Haiti

Most Popular and Most Hated ratings are based on nationwide telephone and arena surveys of wrestling fans and on the volume and character of mail that comes to our offices.

MID-SOUTHERN

- 1—**JERRY LAWLER**
234, Memphis, TN
- 2—**BIG BUBBA**
275, San Antonio, TX
- 3—**DIRTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX
- 4—**TOMMY RICH**
232, Hendersonville, TN
- 5—**TRACY SMOTHERS**
236, Atlanta, GA
- 6—**AIKO SATO**
238, Tokyo, Japan
- 7—**AUSTIN IDOL**
240, Las Vegas, NV
- 8—**HILLBILLY ELMER**
406, Philadelphia, MS
- 9—**JEFF JARRETT**
200, Hendersonville, TN
- 10—**BOY TONY**
231, St. Louis, MO

CONTINENTAL

- 1—**KEVIN SULLIVAN**
235, Boston, MA
- 2—**EXOTIC ADRIAN STREET**
227, South Wales
- 3—**WENDELL COOLEY**
220, Milton, FL
- 4—**THE BULLET**
234, parts unknown
- 5—**TONY ANTHONY**
248, New Orleans, LA
- 6—**STEVE ARMSTRONG**
234, Marietta, GA
- 7—**JIMMY GOLDEN**
234, Montgomery, AL
- 8—**TOM PRITCHARD**
220, Houston, TX
- 9—**ROBERT FULLER**
238, Dyresburg, TN
- 10—**SHEIK ABDULLAH**
242, Saudi Arabia

MOST POPULAR

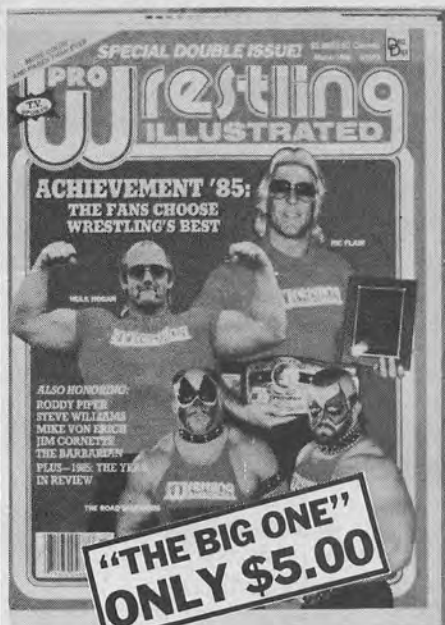
- 1—**RODDY PIPER**
231, Glasgow, Scotland
- 2—**HULK HOGAN**
302, Venice Beach, CA
- 3—**DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX
- 4—**LEX LUGAR**
280, Chicago, IL
- 5—**HACKSAW DUGGAN**
280, Glens Falls, NY
- 6—**TERRY TAYLOR**
225, Vero Beach, FL
- 7—**LANCE VON ERICH**
260, Arlington, TX
- 8—**BARRY WINDHAM**
236, Sweetwater, TX
- 9—**CHRIS ADAMS**
230, Stratford, England
- 10—**RONNIE GARVIN**
231, Montreal, Quebec

MOST HATED

- 1—**PAUL ORNDORFF**
253, Brandon, FL
- 2—**NIKITA KOLOFF**
275, Moscow, Russia
- 3—**RANDY SAVAGE**
245, Sarasota, FL
- 4—**RIC FLAIR**
243, Minneapolis, MN
- 5—**TERRY GORDY**
289, Chattanooga, TN
- 6—**JIM GARVIN**
235, Tampa, FL
- 7—**COL. DeBEERS**
265, Cape Town, South Africa
- 8—**EDDIE GILBERT**
222, Lexington, TN
- 9—**RICK RUDE**
246, Robbinsdale, MN
- 10—**JAKE ROBERTS**
246, Stone Mountain, GA

For period ended October 16, 1986

A SECOND CHANCE TO CATCH "THE BIG ONE"



The year-end issue of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* is always the most anticipated wrestling magazine of the year. And the 1985 year-end issue (March 1986 cover date) was the best one we ever published. At 92 pages, it was our biggest magazine ever and, in addition to the year-end features *PWI* readers have come to expect, it contained eight full-color pages. We have limited supplies of this newsstand sell-out, so don't be disappointed twice. Order your copy today. Only \$5.00.

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MAILBAG

(Continued from page 6)

Gibson. This is truly a tag team made of men.

Arn, you called Rick and Rob "bas-tards." My dear, take a look in the mirror, because it takes one to know one.

SANDY HERRERA
Artesia, NM

IN PRAISE OF FLAIR

It's interesting to note that in your November 1986 issue of *Sports Review Wrestling*, you praise Dusty Rhodes for winning the title from Ric Flair ("Wrestler of the Month: Dusty Rhodes"), but very little is said about Flair winning it back two weeks later.

I think you should congratulate Slick Ric for being man enough to back up what he says and for being a great all-around athlete instead of telling the world how great Rhodes is. At one time, Rhodes was very good. Damn good. But after years of ungodly punishment and unknown amounts of blood being shed, I think it is safe to say that The Dream is dead.

The man should retire before he gets hurt badly in the ring. Face it, two weeks does not make a champion. Now that Flair is a four-time champion, he can solidify his place in history as the greatest NWA champion ever.

I don't really think hooking up with



Ric Flair goes for a snapmare against Dusty Rhodes. According to Tony McLaughlin, a big fan of Flair's, Rhodes should retire before he gets hurt badly.

Baby Doll was a smart move, but Flair is still the best in the sport today, and they do make a hell of a couple.

TONY McLAUGHLIN
Lafayette, IN

GORDY RULES THE UWF

I think that the verdict is out in the UWF ("UWF Champion Terry Gordy: It Takes A Tough Man To Rule A Tough Federation," November 1986 *Sports Review Wrestling*). Bill Watts is back behind his desk and Terry Gordy still holds the UWF championship. Enough said.



Terry Gordy celebrates his UWF title victory with fellow Freebird Michael Hayes. In the opinion of George Rustig, Gordy is still the best, despite his latest run-in with Bill Watts.

Gordy and The Freebirds have proved time and time again that they are the toughest, meanest, and best wrestlers in the entire world. Now that Terry is UWF champion and Buddy Roberts is television champ, it's only a matter of time before The Freebirds beat The Fantastics for the UWF tag team title. Then, Freebird Fantasia will rule the UWF and Bill Watts will be left crying.

I find it interesting that Gordy was the only man who could hold off
(Continued on page 50)

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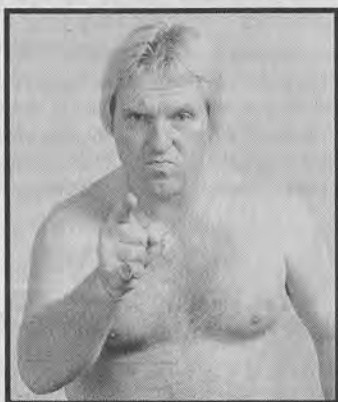
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THE Wrestler



Read all about **BOBBY HEENAN'S** bitter crusade to destroy **HULK HOGAN**



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TED DiBIASE'S paralyzing fear: "I know I will die in the ring!" . . . **JIM GARVIN** and **RONNIE GARVIN** must choose: friends or enemies? . . . A controversial "Q & A" with **COL. DeBEERS** . . . Introducing **THE WARLORD** . . . **JIMMY SNUKA** is spotlighted

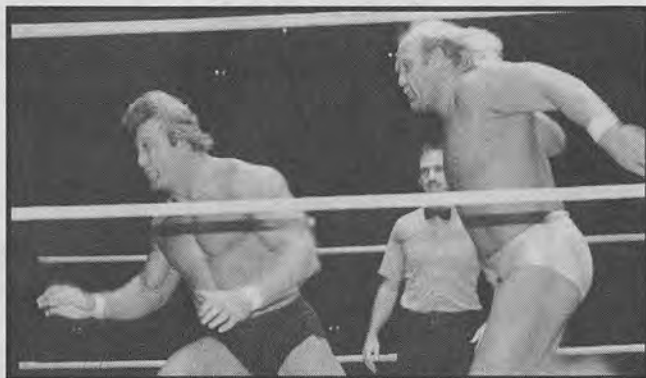
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The Wrestler

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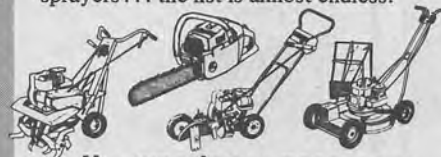
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(Continued from page 47)

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WRESTLING 84-86

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FALL/85



WINTER/85



SPRING/86



SUMMER/86



FALL/86

Watts' challenge. Blade Runner Rock ran, Kortsia Korchenko ran, and Eddie Gilbert was publicly embarrassed, but Gordy held the fort. This is what the UWF is all about, and that's why Terry Gordy will be champion for a very long time.

GEORGE RUSTIG
New Orleans, LA

BRING ON THE NWA

Approximately four months ago my life changed completely. Until then, all I could watch on television, besides the local *All-Star Wrestling* and *Stampede Wrestling* shows, was the *WWF's Championship Wrestling* and *Maple Leaf Wrestling*.

Until then, I thought that was all the sport could offer me. After a while I grew tired of boring shows, boring live cards, and relying on wrestling magazines to inform me of what was happening in other areas. I could no longer tolerate Vince McMahon assuming all of the WWF's fans were under 12 years old.

But then it hit me. I could now watch NWA's World Wide Wrestling on Saturday night at 11 p.m. Finally—no more boring shows, no repeats, no

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Rick Morton grapples with Dennis Condrey. While Canadian fan Mike Howard is happy because he can finally see such NWA stars on TV, he also wishes to see them live.

Slammy Awards, no ceremonies proclaiming the King of Wrestling, no unwritten rules concerning the facing of rulebreakers or fan favorites against each other, no more stupid nicknames, etc.

In short, I no longer have to watch the WWF; I now have a real wrestling program to watch. But I still have one problem. In order to quench my desire for live wrestling, I must see WWF cards or nothing. When will the stars of the NWA come north and visit beautiful British Columbia?

There are a lot of real wrestling fans up here who can't stomach the WWF any longer and would fill up B.C. Place to see men like Dusty Rhodes, Ric Flair, The Rock 'n' Roll Express, Nikita Koloff, Magnum T.A., and all the rest. So please, Jim Crockett, consider Vancouver as a potential wrestling capital of the world.

MIKE HOWARD
Coquitlam, British Columbia

BILLY JACK, RIDE AWAY!

Won't someone please come and rescue us from the most overrated wrestler in WWF history, Billy Jack Haynes? His body is overrated and his wrestling is boring.



Although Billy Jack Haynes has the chinlock on Hercules Hernandez, Sandra Koch feels Billy is overrated. She would like to see Hernandez or anybody else run him out of the WWF.

I thought Hercules Hernandez would destroy Haynes, but even though he beat him, the ref gave the match to Haynes. So Hernandez went away cheated. Haynes can't even hold a candle to Hercules.

Maybe someone like Rick Rude will come to the WWF and rid us of the Haynes blight. Rude had been chasing Haynes all over the South (as Hernandez was), so maybe he can trap him here and get him out of the way.

SANDRA KOCH
Easton, PA ☐

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INQUIRING REPORTER

(Continued from page 12)



Although admirers flock to him now, Luger was not always a fan favorite. His fans in Florida would be sorry to see him leave, but their loss would be the wrestling world's gain.

challengers in Florida with ease. The only way for Luger to seriously challenge for Ric Flair's title is to pack his bags and try the competition in other areas of the NWA and other federations."

Greg Rider, Butte, MT: "It's about time you started asking that question. Luger should have changed his address a long time ago. My friends in Florida tell me that he probably never should have began his career there. He would have been better off starting with a smaller promotion, then exploding on the scene in the WWF or the World Championship area. Wherever he eventually goes, Luger will be a champion."

Joe Vladikovich, Pittsburgh, PA: "The ability of a wrestler should not be measured by the size of his muscles, but by his wrestling skill. On both counts, Luger is among the top 10 in the world. However, I don't think it matters *where* he wrestles, only *how* he wrestles. So it doesn't make a difference whether or not he stays in Florida, although I wish I could see him in live matches here in Pennsylvania."

Betty Samuelson, Birmingham, AL: "Oh, Lex, how do I love thee? Let me count the ways! If I had anything to do about it, Lex Luger would stay down here forever. Who cares about how he wrestles! With a body like that

you don't have to fight, you can just stand there looking great. Lex will rule wrestling for as long as he wants, and nobody is gonna stop him. Not even Flair or Hogan."

Manny Lee, Nashville, TN: "Assuming that Luger has any brains left after the beating he took from Humperdink's men, he not only should get out of Florida, he should get out of wrestling! The man is the classic example of all body and no brains. No matter what anybody tells me, I don't see one ounce of talent displayed by the joker. Sure, he's an imposing figure, but he could take some wrestling lessons from Barry Windham, or even Kendall for that matter. Lex, a few words of advice: Quit while you're still healthy enough to enter some bodybuilding contests!"

John E. Rasselhamer, Madison, WI: "I've been watching this sport for 37 years, and I sincerely believe that Lex Luger has the most potential at the start of his career than anyone I've ever seen. The key word is potential; he has a long way to go to prove he belongs with the all-time greats. Nevertheless, he has seemingly taken care of all his major competition in Florida. A move to a big promotion like the WWF or even the AWA would show that Luger is serious about testing himself against the very best wrestling has to offer." □

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July 1980/COLOR STARSHOT: The Sheik. **Bruno Sammartino**, Wrestling II, Race, Ladd, Albano.

June 1982/COLOR PINUP: Nick Bockwinkel. **Adonis & Ventura**, Snuka, Patera, Flair.

August 1982/COLOR PINUP: Dino Bravo. **Steamboat & Rich**, Andre, Martel, Piper, Blassie.

October 1982/COLOR PINUP: Jerry Lawler. **Ric Flair**, Rhodes, Graham, Race, Funk Jr.

December 1982/COLOR PINUP: Rick Martel. **Hulk Hogan**, Von Erich, Orndorff, Albano.

January 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ken Patera. **Rick Steamboat**, Rich, Brody, Sullivan, Backlund.

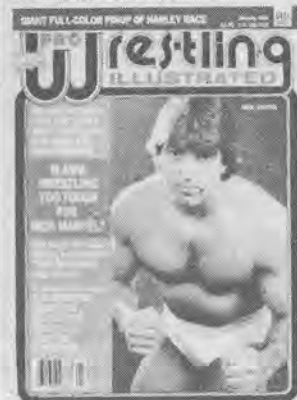
February 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ivan Putski. **Rhodes vs. Garvin**, Snuka, Super Destroyer, Bockwinkel, Funk.

August 1983/COLOR PINUP: Larry Zbyszko. **Roddy Piper**, Sullivan, Zbyszko, Von Erich, Wrestling II.

October 1983/COLOR PINUP: Junkyard Dog. **Tommy Rich**, Johnson, Adonis, Rhodes, Piper.

November 1983/COLOR PINUP: Roddy Piper. **Harley Race**, Santana, Mascaras, Ellering, Valiant, Race.

December 1983/COLOR PINUP: Wahoo McDaniel. **Dusty Rhodes**, Hayes, Steamboat, Hansen, DiBiase.



JANUARY 1984

January 1984/COLOR PINUP: Harley Race. **Rick Martel**, Snuka, Freebirds, Dillon, Sawyer.

February 1984/COLOR PINUP: Jim Garvin & Sunshine. **Greg Valentine**, Super Destroyer, Race, Sawyer, Abdullah.

April 1984/COLOR PINUP: Rocky Johnson. **Ric Flair**, Hogan, Andre, Bundy.

May 1984/COLOR PINUP: Hacksaw Butch Reed. **Hulk Hogan**, Road Warriors, Fabulous Ones, Flair, Rotundo.

June 1984/COLOR PINUP: Dick Slater. **Ted DiBiase**, Wrestling II, Magnum T.A., Patera, Hogan.

July 1984/COLOR PINUP: Paul Ellering. **Jimmy Valiant**, JYD, Fab Ones, Gagne, Windham.

August 1984/COLOR PINUP: Stan Hansen. **Jerry Lawler**, Sullivan, Slaughter, Blackwell & Patera, Flair.

October 1984/COLOR PINUP: Billy Jack. **Kerry Von Erich**, Martel, Blanchard, Fabulous Blonds, Armstrong.

November 1984/COLOR PINUP: Rick Martel. **Sgt. Slaughter**, Von Erich, Road Warriors, Windham, Rotundo.

December 1984/COLOR PINUP: Kerry Von Erich. **Barry Windham**, Rich, Martel, McDaniel, WWF-NWA TV war.

January 1985/COLOR PINUP: Tito Santana. **Road Warriors**, Billy Jack, Hayes, 1984 fan ballot.

February 1985/COLOR PINUP: Magnum T.A. **Rick Martel**, Hogan, Backlund, Ellering.

April 1985/COLOR PINUP: Ronnie Garvin. **Jimmy Snuka**, Warriors, Gordy, Flair, Rhodes.

June 1985/COLOR PINUP: Barry Windham. **Dusty Rhodes**, Slaughter, Hogan, Von Erich, T.A.

July 1985/COLOR PINUP: Sgt. Slaughter. **Hogan vs. Piper**, Warriors, One Man Gang, T.A., Martel.

September 1985/COLOR PINUP: Junkyard Dog. **Magnum T.A.**, Von Erich, Hogan, AWA scouting reports.

October 1985/COLOR PINUP: Chris Adams. **Rick Steamboat**, Warriors, Nikita, WWF scouting reports.

November 1985/COLOR PINUP: Randy Savage. **Ric Flair**, Slaughter, Steamboat, World Class scouting reports.

December 1985/COLOR PINUP: Jesse Ventura. **Great American Bash**, Von Erich, Orndorff, Williams & DiBiase.

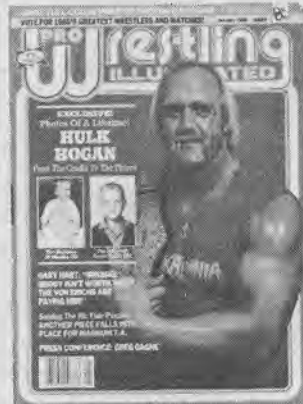
January 1986/COLOR PINUP: Hacksaw Duggan. **Hulk Hogan**, T.A., Brody.

February 1986/COLOR PINUP: Nikita Koloff. **Mike Von Erich**, Warriors, Santana, Taylor, Barbarian, Race.

April 1986/COLOR PINUP: Ric Flair. **Wendi Richter**, Adams & Hernandez, Dusty & Warriors vs. Flair & Andersons.

May 1986/COLOR PINUP: Rick Steamboat. **Road Warriors**, Humongous, Bulldogs, Hansen vs. Martel.

June 1986/COLOR PINUP: Kevin Von Erich. **Hulk Hogan**, Adams, Duggan, Scott Hall.



JANUARY 1986

July 1986/COLOR PINUP: King Kong Bundy. **R & R Express**, Hall and Hennig, Ventura, Warriors.

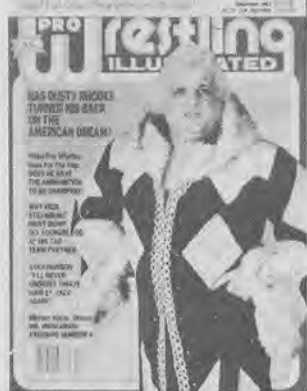
August 1986/COLOR PINUP: Dusty Rhodes. **Randy Savage**, Lugar vs. Race, Blanchard vs. Flair, Rude.

October 1986/COLOR PINUP: John Studd. **Nikita Koloff**, Savage vs. Bundy, Landell, Flair vs. Lugar, Simpson.

November 1986/COLOR PINUP: Baby Doll. **British Bulldogs**, Von Erich, Hansen, Gordy, Flair-Tully-Arn-Ole.

December 1986/COLOR PINUP: Great American Bash. **Great American Bash**, Midnight Rockers, Von Erich, Windham.

January 1987/COLOR PINUP: Fabulous Freebirds. **Roddy Piper**, Nikita vs. T.A., Snuka, Simpson.



DECEMBER 1983

April 1983/COLOR PINUP: Superstar Graham. **Mil Mascaras**, Valentine, Orndorff, Hart.

June 1983/COLOR PINUP: Cowboy Bob Orton. **Rick Martel**, Von Erich, Slaughter, Muraco.

July 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ivan Koloff. **Tommy Rich**, Patera, Von Erich, Snuka.

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TATTLER

(Continued from page 8)



KEIRN & LANE

by the boards. As *Sports Review Wrestling* was going to press, Steve Keirn and Stan Lane suffered a stunning loss here to The Shepherders in a street fight, lights out, anything-goes match. And so, The Shepherders now own Florida's version of the U.S. tag team title.

As is usually the case with The Shepherders, the victory was scored in controversial fashion. Lane was double-teamed by Luke Williams and Butch Miller, who hit him over the back several times with their flagpole, and eventually went in for the pin and the belts.

Lane was seriously injured and will be out of action for several weeks. He is to be replaced by rookie Ron Simmons.

Now it's The Shepherders' turn to claim sole possession of the U.S. tag team title. Ivan Koloff and Krusher Khrushchev own the World Championship area's version of the U.S. tag championship, and The Shepherders are ready to take them head on.

"No Americans, no Russkies, we don't care what they are, just send them our way," says Crazy Luke. "We're not scared of nobody, me and Butch, we don't like the Russians none either. It's just like them, they're trying to take what's ours, but they're not gonna get it, no, they're not. If they want us, we're right here, they know where we are. Right here, in Florida, crippling Steve Keirn and Stan Lane."

Keirn is more concerned over his injured tag team partner than the loss of the title. Although Simmons is a capable substitute, he can't hope to duplicate the chemistry that Keirn and Lane have developed. Both of The Fabulous Ones, however, claim that they will win back the tag team belts and insist that Florida's version of the U.S. tag team title is the real thing.

—Barry Simon

DALLAS, TX: Down in the Land of the Von Erichs, a Von Erich has won the World Class heavy-

weight title for the first time. Kevin Von Erich, the oldest of the brothers, defeated Black Bart at the Cotton Bowl on October 13 to gain the distinction.

Although still hampered by a series of shoulder injuries, Kevin delivered an impressive series of drop-kicks to put the defending champion at a disadvantage. Then Kevin delivered a powerslam and went in for the pin to win it all.

The victory was even sweeter because Kerry, seriously injured in a May motorcycle accident, was at ringside to cheer on his brother. Kerry, a former NWA World champion, is looking forward to the day when he returns to the ring, and was gratified by the warm greeting he received from the crowd.

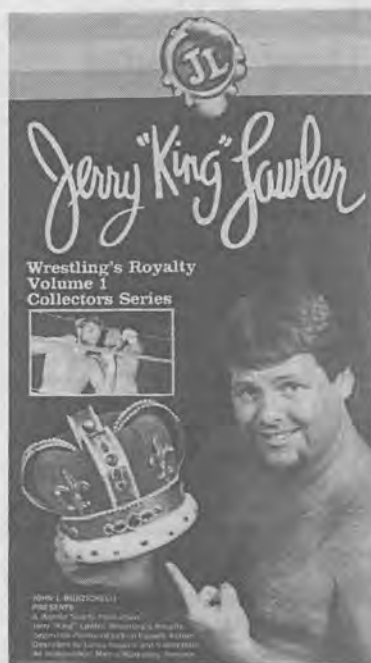
"This is one of the greatest moments of my life," said Kevin, who also owns a share of the World Class six-man tag title with brother Mike and cousin Lance Von Erich. "Just having Kerry at ringside was an inspiration to me. I did it for him and for all the fans out there who stuck by me through thick and thin. This makes all the pain and suffering worthwhile."

Kerry seemed even more thrilled by his brother's success. "I think that people associate World Class wrestling with the Von Erichs, but none of us have held it since we split from the NWA and became an independent federation," said Kerry. "This could be the start of a Von Erich dynasty. Kevin is only getting stronger, and then I'll be back. After all the bad things that have happened over the past few years, I thank God for this bit of good fortune."

There were a few other interesting matches on the Columbus Day card. Crusher Yurkov, formerly known as Mid-Southern champion Bam Bam Bigelow, defeated Brian Adidas; Rick Steamboat, on loan from the WWF, pinned Zulu; and Bruiser Brody scored a rare pin over Abdullah the Butcher.

—Andrew Ray

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WE ACCUSE

(Continued from page 10)

spread South Africa's gospel. But we, the editors of *Sports Review Wrestling*, have one question: Why doesn't he go back to where he came from?

Now!

We accuse Col. DeBeers of being racist, anti-American, and of using his highly visible position as a professional athlete to spread his political views and the ideas of the despicable South African government. We demand that he sticks to wrestling when he's in the ring or on television. We're not asking him to change his views. That would be impossible. We're just asking him, make that *telling* him, to keep them to himself.

America is the land of the free. In the United States, people are allowed to say what they feel, without fear of persecution. But with this comes a certain responsibility, a responsibility to not take advantage of your position. Who isn't just a little turned off when Ed Asner appears on television and, using the guise of his famous Lou Grant character, preaches politics? And was that Clint Eastwood or Dirty Harry who was elected mayor of the affluent northern California town of Carmel?

In other words, it just isn't fair. All Americans should have equal opportunity to express their views. When Col. DeBeers is interviewed on television or for a magazine, it is assumed that the conversation will be about wrestling. But DeBeers constantly takes advantage of this forum to put down blacks.

Col. DeBeers, this is America, and if the AWA says that you're gonna wrestle Jimmy Snuka, you had better do it. And if the AWA says that you're going to wrestle Scott Hall, you'd better be there. We really don't care if Snuka is black (he's not, he's Polynesian) or if Hall uses steroids (an absurd and slanderous charge). Just get in the ring, wrestle, and shut your mouth! Give politics a rest!

And you're a racist, mister, whether



DeBeers takes Curt Hennig down by the neck. Although he's a fine scientific wrestler, DeBeers prefers to let his politics color everything he does. Many fans wonder why the AWA hasn't taken any official action against the controversial South African.

you'll admit it or not. You believe that the white man is superior to the black man, and if that's not racist, somebody has changed the definition. In America, the idea of whites' superiority to blacks was discarded over 100 years ago. Unfortunately, in some quarters it still exists, but we're talking about a vast minority. This minority, the Ku Klux Klan, is widely regarded as an embarrassment throughout this country. That's where you belong, DeBeers.

As for the charge that you're anti-American, well, think about it, DeBeers. You criticize our way of life. You criticize the way we treat people.

You constantly give reasons why Americans are the way they are, in turn implying that there's something *wrong* with the way we are. Then you wrestle in our arenas, where Americans pay money to see you perform, and you cash paychecks and live off the wealth of this great land.

So now it's up to the AWA. C'mon, Stanley Blackburn, lay down the law. Tell DeBeers to stick to wrestling. The integrity of your organization is at stake. If the man doesn't want to play by the rules, get rid of him. Certainly, he won't be missed.

Not in the least. ☐

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MISSY-JOURNEY

(Continued from page 27)



Dark Journey is deeply concerned about the negative effect Hyatt is having on children; Hyatt should be concerned about the negative effect Dark Journey is having on her!

stand, which she did unsteadily, her tiny feet balancing precariously on what seemed like five-inch spiked heels. Her gum snapped. A dash of mascara ran down her little cheek.

"I hope Missy Hyatt knocks the dickens out of you, Dark Journey," the little girl boomed. "She's a real woman! Not a wimp-o like you. And anyone who hangs around with the Missing Link has got to be weird."

Although the little girl's outburst met with several encouraging cries, the majority of students booed. This, clearly, was Dark Journey's crowd. Nevertheless, she was shaken by the youngster's remarks.

"What makes Missy Hyatt so attractive?" she asked the little girl.

"She's beautiful and pretty and gets all the men. And she makes a lot of money."

"Lots of men are attracted to me, darling," Dark Journey answered. "I make a lot of money. And some people even call me beautiful."

Running out of logic, the little girl
(Continued on page 60)

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MISSY HYATT-DARK JOURNEY

(Continued from page 58)

in the little girl emerged. "I don't care what you say. I love Missy Hyatt, and I want to grow up to be just like her."

Afterward, over pizza in the school cafeteria, the conversation between Mrs. Babcock and Dark Journey resumed.

"That little girl had you flustered," the teacher said. "You can imagine how hard up against a roadblock we feel sometimes."

"The image Missy Hyatt presents is nothing more than that of a glorified tramp—which is what the little trollop is," Dark Journey answered. "These children are impressed by the glitter and glamour, but they don't understand the kind of self-degradation that goes along with her position. Oooh, I hate that woman!"

"She's one to talk." Missy Hyatt, in a wraparound towel, smoked a cigarette on her bedroom balcony. "Dark Journey has never worked an honest day in her life. She's jealous of my looks, my talents, and my money. Y'know, after Dick Slater dumped her, she called me up and asked me for a place to stay. That's how desperate that low-lying, conniving skunk is. I told her to go to hell. She'd badmouth her own mother if she thought there'd be a shiny dime in it."

"I hope the children of this country do look up to me as a role model. I don't kowtow to men—they worship me. If they want to provide me with life's luxuries for no reason at all, I say let 'em. I earn my money. If some clown wants to buy me a townhouse, I'm not gonna argue. And for Dark Journey to condemn me and my lifestyle takes real guts. She has no pride. And I'll teach her some respect the next time we're in the ring."

"Now Missy Hyatt knows that the dunk tank was nothing," said Dark Journey, referring to the time she forced Missy into a charity dunk booth at WrestleFest, part of the Tulsa Fair

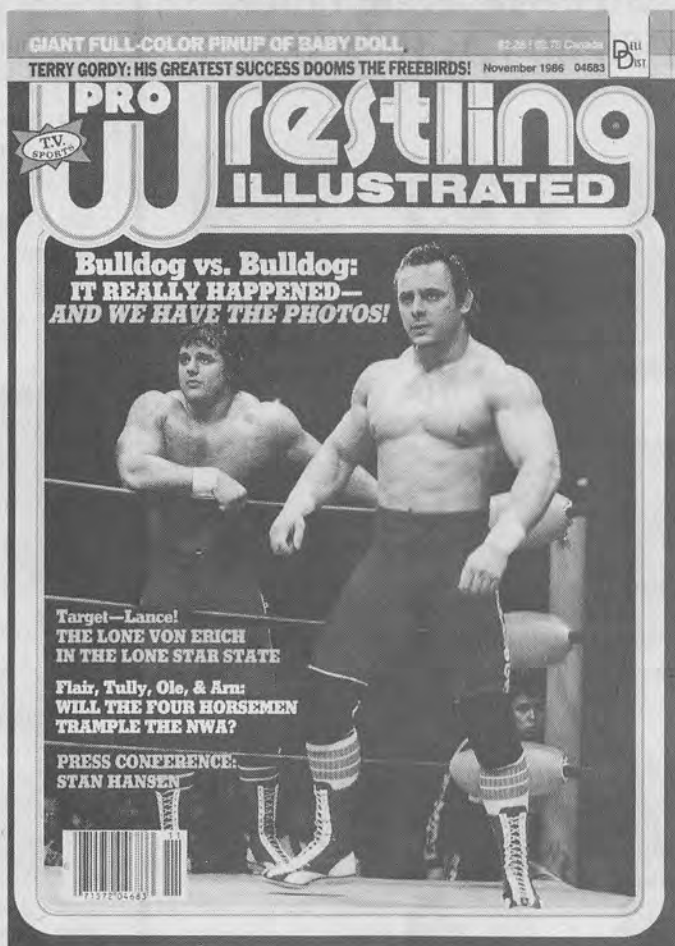


Gilbert and Hyatt, who've had enough of Dark Journey for one night, leave the ring in a hurry. Hyatt truly believes that she, and not Dark Journey, is a good role model for kids. Most of the kids think otherwise.

this past September in Oklahoma. Dark Journey was brushing her hair in the dressing room, just moments after she had stepped out of the shower. Her match with Missy Hyatt had ended about 30 minutes earlier, but her eyes were still wide and ready for combat.

"There've been matches before, and there'll be more in the future," she said as the brush smoothed out the strands of her still wet hair. "And the next time we meet, it'll take Eddie Gilbert and Sting and everyone else she knows to clean up the mess. Except that mess won't be water like at WrestleFest—it'll be her rich bitch blood." □

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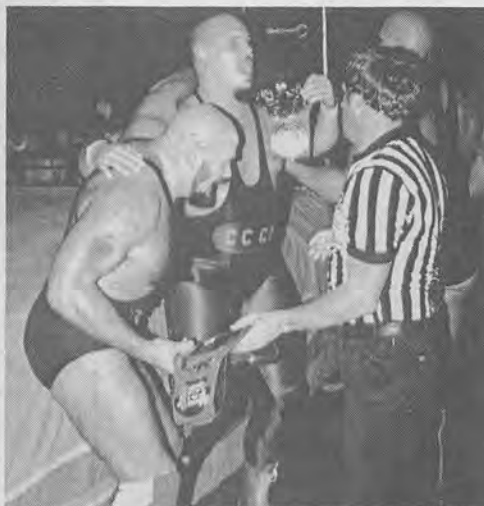
RUSSIANS

(Continued from page 31)

challenge superior beings. Ivan Koloff is the greatest wrestler that ever lived!"

So what's next?

Judd Ray Scott is late coming home for dinner and his wife is worried. He's been acting this way for days, ever since that night he came home from wrestling at The Omni. He was sad that evening, virtually despondent, and didn't say a word the following morning. Judd wouldn't say what was wrong, but his wife has known him for 15 years and she had a pretty good idea.



Koloff and Khrushchev are exhausted just after winning the belts. In time, World Championship Wrestling's version of the U.S. title may become more significant than Florida's, but don't tell that to The Fabulous Ones.

Judd walks through the door. "Hello, honey, dinner's ready," says his wife. "How was your day?" Judd doesn't answer. He walks over to the dinner table and sits down. "Hot dogs and beans, honey, your favorite," his wife says, trying to get her man to speak. "And apple pie for dessert. The man from Chevy called, the car won't be ready for a week."

Judd didn't care. He stared at the plate full of food in front of him.

"Have some peas, honey." Judd hates peas. "Have some beets, honey." Judd looks up. He finally speaks. "Don't they make borscht out of beets?" His wife nods.

"I hate beets," Judd says. ☐

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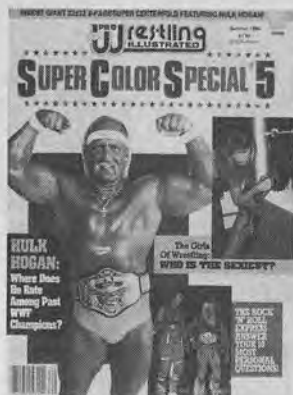
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KEIRN & LANE

(Continued from page 33)

U.S. tag team title and we have it," said Koloff. "Florida does not exist. It is a swampland where lazy Americans go to live out their unreachable fantasies in this Disney World. Tell me, stupid American journalist, isn't Florida where your people blew the Space Shuttle to pieces? Yes it is, I believe! Ha! Ha!"

And Khrushchev: "I know all about this U.S. tag team title in Florida," he says. "It's an insignificant title. These Fabulous Ones can't seriously believe that they can match up to the Russian machine! We will teach them a lesson.



Lane executes a Russian leg sweep on The Ninja, who, along with frequent tag team partner Kendo Nagasaki, poses one of the more serious threats to The Fabulous Ones' titles.

They should not mess with something they can't handle."

Typical Russian bravado, although Koloff and Khrushchev have a right to be arrogant. To win their version of the titles, they had to defeat some of the toughest competition in the NWA. They should be proud of their achievements. But they'll be stepping over the line if they provoke The Fabulous Ones. Keirn and Lane, a fine team, get even tougher when angry, and apparently, they've reached their boiling point.

Neither team is in a sharing mood. The U.S. tag team belts—as well as the Russians and The Fabulous Ones—are in for a tug-of-war. □

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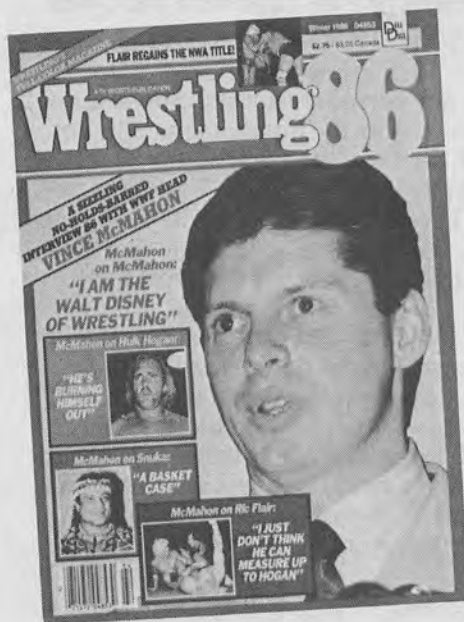
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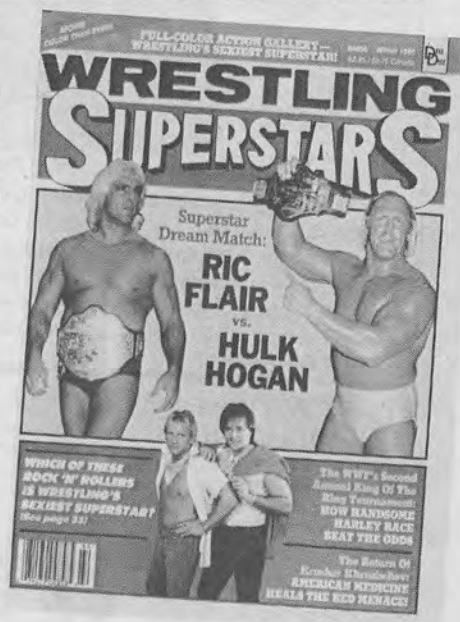
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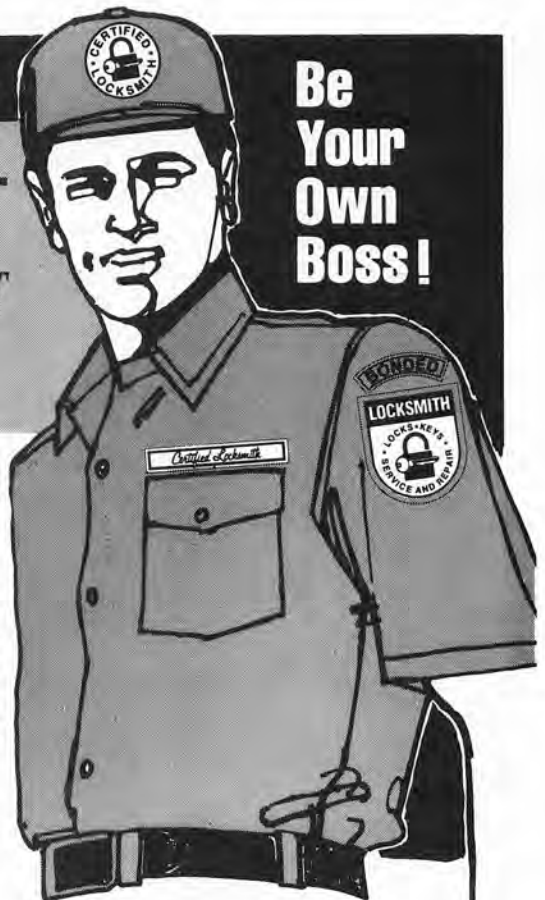
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